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A HISTORY  
OF  
SULLIVAN COUNTY  
INDIANA

CLOSING OF THE FIRST CENTURY'S HISTORY  
OF THE COUNTY, AND SHOWING THE  
GROWTH OF ITS PEOPLE, INSTI-  
TUTIONS, INDUSTRIES  
AND WEALTH

THOMAS J. WOLFE  
EDITOR

VOLUME I

ILLUSTRATED

THE LEWIS PUBLISHING COMPANY  
NEW YORK CHICAGO

1909





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## FOREWORD BY THE EDITOR

In assuming the position of editor of the present work we were aware of the difficulties in the way of producing such a history as that outlined in the prospectus. As the work progressed we found we had not overestimated the task, and but for the energy and perseverance of the chief historian, Mr. Hill, who has so loyally seconded all of our efforts we should certainly have come short of our own expectations.

Our readers can scarcely imagine the labor necessary to overcome the difficulties of such a work where there is so little authentic data. The original intention of giving a history of Sullivan County, for about one century, has been adhered to; but to prepare such a history where the public records have been destroyed and all those who really made the first twenty-five or fifty years of that history have ceased to speak, is a difficult task. In a country where annals are kept, and events of each year are recorded as they occur, it is an easy matter to select, group and condense those events into a general history. No such effort is attempted in this work. Events will not, therefore, be found in chronological order, but must be sought under the head of the subject matter under consideration. No attempt has been made to give prominence to every little neighborhood event. This would be the work of a daily newspaper, and if inserted here would make an encyclopedia instead of a history, and hence only those of general interest have been selected. Where facts have been recorded they have been consulted, where witnesses are living they have been examined and cross-questioned—ancient newspapers and private documents have been consulted, and even “tables of stone,” “silent sentinels of the dead” have been visited and asked to give up their secrets of other years.





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The chief value of a history is, not to the generation in which it is written but to their children and succeeding generations. The older readers may *know* many of the facts related, the next generation may have *heard* of them from living ancestors, and thus *history* degenerates into tradition and in a short time becomes hazy mythology.

The editor and his associates have made special effort to avoid any partiality or favoritism. For such errors the sources of information are most to blame. It is so natural for persons to wish to appear a little better than they are and especially a little better than their neighbors. Very few have the courage of the old battle-scarred general who, sitting for his portrait, was asked by the artist if he should not cover up some of the scars, answered "no"—and in commanding tone said "paint me as I am."

It is to be observed, however, that there is a difference between partiality and drawing the veil of silence over the errors or mistakes of the absent or the dead—the one is justice, the other "charity, that covers a multitude of sins." There is no history, with the exception of the Bible, that has ever had the courage to rebuke the sins of an individual or nation in such unmeasured terms as were used in extolling their virtues.

These things are enumerated, not as an apology, but that the reader may have a clearer conception of the difficulties that the publishers have had to meet.

The editor has been in hearty sympathy in the effort to perpetuate as far as possible the fast departing land-marks of bygone generations that made us what we are—to pay, in some small degree, the debt we owe to them and to hand the same down to future generations. We are not vain enough to imagine that our work is perfect. We are aware of many defects. Nor do we suppose that our efforts will be appreciated in the near future; but we do believe that it will live and will grow more valuable as our county grows older and will furnish a foundation for some future historian on which to build.

The management are indebted to the patrons who have generously aided their efforts and have made possible the success of the enterprise by

## FOREWORD

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furnishing much information, and have manifested such patience for which we have endeavored to reward them by improvements which required time to make. We commend the work to you as the best could be made under all of the circumstances. We trust our efforts will meet all just expectations, and realize that the nearest approach to immortality, in this world, is to be embalmed in printer's ink and be laid away in history.

It is manifestly impossible to make individual acknowledgments for all the sources of historical information which have supplied the contents of this work. But in one case such acknowledgment is due from the editor and publishers. The history of the county from the beginning of the Civil war to the present time is largely based on data obtained from the files of the Sullivan *Democrat*. These files were loaned for the purpose by Mr. Paul Poynter, proprietor of the *Democrat*. The task of reading each issue of this paper for a period of nearly fifty years, and of collecting and classifying the historical notes was performed with much care and fidelity by Miss Julia Mason, of the Sullivan Public Library. The voluminous notes thus obtained could not all be utilized in the preparation of this work, and they are in many respects a valuable historical collection containing a digest of all matters of interest in the county's life during the past fifty years.

SULLIVAN, July 5, 1909.





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# HISTORY OF SULLIVAN COUNTY

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## CHAPTER I.

### THE HISTORIC BACKGROUND.

During the latter half of the seventeenth century, by the discoveries and explorations of Marquette, Hennepin, Joliet and LaSalle, all the country drained by the Mississippi and Ohio rivers and their tributaries were added to the vast claims of the French empire in the new world. For nearly a century the statecraft and military power of France were tested and tried to the utmost in strengthening and maintaining the authority of the empire in the territory between New Orleans and Montreal. During LaSalle's explorations about the lower end of Lake Michigan and in his journeyings from there to the Mississippi, he penetrated northwestern Indiana, going as far east as the site of South Bend. Another result of his activities was the organization of the various Indian tribes outside of the Iroquois confederacy and the concentration of them all about a central seat in Illinois, so that in 1685 it is probable that Indiana was no longer the home of a single Indian tribe.

To secure all the country between the Mississippi and the Alleghanies against English aggression, the French projected and founded

many posts that would command the rivers and the outlets of trade. Several forts were established at the lower end of the Mississippi, and a vigorous policy of commercial development and expansion begun. Other posts were established higher up the river, Kaskaskia, above the mouth of the Ohio, becoming a strategic point of much importance. The French captain, Cadillac, by anticipating the English in the settlement of Detroit, secured a post of wonderful advantage in dealing with the Indian inhabitants west of Lake Erie and south of Lake Michigan. The Indian tribes that had been drawn into LaSalle's Illinois confederacy were now drifting east to the Wabash, the Maumee and about Detroit. To control these tribes and prevent their being approached by the English, the French authorities in Canada, who claimed jurisdiction on the upper courses of the Wabash,\* planned the re-location of the tribes and the founding of posts among them. The principal settlement of the Miamis was then at the head of the Maumee, at a place called Kekionga (the site of Fort Wayne). The Ouiatanons lived lower down on the Wabash, and about 1720 post Ouiatanon was established among them (near the site of Lafayette), this being the first military post on the Wabash. From this point controlling the Miamis and Ouiatanons, was stationed *Sieur de Vincennes*. The authorities of Louisiana, very much exercised by the reported encroachments of English traders within the Ohio valley, about 1726, won over Vincennes from his service with Canada, and a year or so later that intrepid pioneer of France founded on the lower course of the Wabash the post which soon became known as Vincennes. In a few years some French families from Canada settled around the post, and thus was established the first European village in Indiana.

\*The lower Ohio and Wabash and Mississippi were governed as part of the Louisiana province of New France. Boisbriant, who had been appointed governor of Illinois, founded Fort Chartres (sixteen miles above Kaskaskia) for the protection of the upper colony, in 1720.

Until the close of the French occupation in 1763, Vincennes was included in the District of Illinois, which, in turn, was part of the Province of Louisiana. The dividing point between the jurisdiction of Canada and that of Louisiana was Terre Haute, "the Highlands of the Wabash."

By such means the authority of France was extended throughout all this country, including the present state of Indiana. Vincennes became a village of French soldiers and traders and their families. Where Lafayette now stands was another French post, and another at the site of Fort Wayne. The inevitable conflict between France and England, closing with the victory of Wolfe on the plains of Abraham and with the treaty of Paris in 1763 by which England became the dominant and principal territorial power in the new world, has only a remote interest in this discussion. The French and English met at the site of Pittsburg in 1754, where Fort DuQuesne was built by the former, and this meeting brought on the war which began with the disastrous defeat of Braddock by the French and their Indian allies.

After Wolfe's victory the English took possession of Detroit and the posts on the upper Wabash, but Vincennes continued part of French Louisiana until the treaty in 1763. The numerous Indian tribes northwest of the Ohio, though at first treated with much respect by the English, were later wrought upon by the brusque behavior of the English and the secret persuasion of the French who still remained in the country. A powerful confederacy of the western tribes was formed under the brilliant leadership of Pontiac, and during the spring of 1763 a general outbreak against the English posts occurred, which has since been known in history as Pontiac's war. Few of the inland posts escaped capture, the small English garrisons at Ouiatanons and Miamis (Fort Wayne) surrendering with the rest. It was not until the following year that such energetic measures were taken by the English forces as to break the Indians'



strength and force the Delawares, Shawanees, Miamis and other bands to sue for peace. Henceforth until the American revolution, the Indian inhabitants north of the Ohio gave little trouble to the English, who maintained an easy and almost nominal jurisdiction over the posts and settlements along the Wabash and down the Mississippi.

In 1774 all the country northwest of the Ohio was put into the boundaries of the Province of Quebec, and several years later the lieutenant governor of Detroit assumed title of "superintendent of St. Vincennes," and took personal command there in 1777. Throughout all the years since the first exploration of her territory Indiana was but a part of a province of a province. "For ninety years her provincial seat of government vacillated between Quebec, New Orleans and Montreal, with intermediate authority at Fort Chartres and Detroit, and the ultimate power at Paris. Then her capital was whisked away to London, without the slightest regard to the wishes of her scattered inhabitants, by the treaty at Paris. Sixteen years later it came over the Atlantic to Richmond, on the James, by conquest; and after a tarry of five years at that point it shifted to New York city, then the national seat of government, by cession. In 1788 it reached Marietta, Ohio, on its progress to its final location. In 1800 it came within the limits of the state."\*

During the Revolutionary war, the danger most dreaded by the colonists was that which came from across the western frontier, produced by the Indians and their English leaders. At this time a considerable population had crossed the mountains from the Atlantic colonies into the country along the Ohio, and the county of Kentucky had already been organized as a part of Virginia by George Rogers Clark. This young Virginian, when it became apparent that a frontier force must be maintained to subdue the Indians and check their invasions

\* Dunn's Indiana.

under English leadership into the colonies, was selected by the government of Virginia to organize and command such a force on the frontier. Owing to lack of money and supplies, the small number of settlers from whom his force was to be recruited, and the vast extent of country to be covered by his force, the success of Clark's campaign has long been a glorious addition to American annals, and his fame fitly symbolized with the designation "The Hannibal of the West." Setting out with a small force of men, recruited largely in Kentucky, and relying on the support or at least the neutral attitude of the French settlers, he surprised the post at Kaskaskia, July 4, 1778, and in the course of the same month Vincennes became an American post, and the American flag was floated for the first time in Indiana, and the French residents welcomed the American invaders as friends of their nation. Vincennes was later captured by the British and again re-taken by Clark, but the details of his campaign are not here pertinent. Suffice it to say that he held the vast region of his conquest against all expeditions of the English until the close of the war, and when the treaty of Paris was signed in 1783 the conquered region became a part of the new American republic. By the Ordinance of 1787 all this country northwest of the Ohio was organized as the Northwest Territory, and provided with a temporary government directed by officials appointed by Congress.

By Clark's conquest, by the Ordinance of 1787 for the government of the Territory, and by ordinances, dated in 1785 and 1788, providing for the survey and disposal of the public lands of the Territory, the region now embraced in the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and parts of others became a part of the United States and opened to the settlement of the pioneer homemakers who formed the first wave of western expansion. However, the Indian inhabitants were a factor that proved an

obstacle to the settlement of this region for many years, and it was only when they gradually yielded, by war and treaty, their rights to the land that the white men were permitted to come in and possess the fertile regions north of the Ohio.

## CHAPTER II.

### THE OLD FORTS AND THE FIRST SETTLEMENTS.

The first settlements in Sullivan county were made on lands that the French had obtained from the Indians during the period of the French regime. These lands were in the vicinity of Vincennes, and were later known as the Vincennes district. The treaty with the Indians for these lands was made in 1742, and the general description of the boundaries was—"lying between the point above, Pointe Coupee en haut, and the river Blanche below the village, with as much land on both sides of the Wabash as might be comprised within the said limits." Pointe Coupee was a mile or so above the mouth of Busseron creek, in the southwest corner of what is now Gill township. The village referred to in the treaty was, of course, Vincennes, and the river Blanche was White river. Thus the lands granted to the French by this treaty comprised practically all of Knox county, the southern portion of Sullivan county, besides some lands on the west side of the Wabash.

Some of this land was occupied by the residents of the country during the French and British control of the territory. After the American conquest, and while Vincennes was commanded by governors from Virginia, further dispositions of the lands were made under the authority of the local officials. After the organization of the Northwest Territory in 1787, the disposal of the lands was regulated by Congress.

In 1791 Congress passed a land law upon which were based subsequent titles to the lands of this district. This law provided:

1. That 400 acres of land should be given to the head of each family residing at Vincennes or in the Illinois country in the year 1783;

2. That a tract of land containing 5,400 acres near Vincennes, which had been under fence and used as a pasture for thirty years, should be given to the inhabitants of Vincennes to be used by them as a common until otherwise disposed of by law;

3. That the governor of the territory be authorized to donate a tract of land of 100 acres to each man who on the 1st of August, 1790, was enrolled in the militia, had done militia duty and had not received a donation;

4. That the governor upon application should confirm to heads of families the lands which they may have possessed and which may have been allotted to them according to the usages of the government under which they had respectively settled;

5. That where lands had been actually cultivated and improved at Vincennes or in the Illinois country, under a supposed grant of the same by any commandant or court claiming authority to make such grant, the governor might confirm such claim not exceeding 400 acres to each person.

The bodies of land described in the first section have since been known as "donations;" those in the third paragraph, as "militia donations;" and the last classes are generally known as "surveys."

The status of the lands in the Vincennes district at about the time the first settlements were platted in Sullivan county is described in a letter from General Harrison to James Madison in January, 1802. He said that the governors' courts maintained at Vincennes under the authority of the Virginia commonwealth from 1779 on had assumed the right to grant land to all applicants; that they did this for a time without opposition, and concluded that, as they were not interrupted, they could continue as they pleased; that finally the whole country, to which the



Indian title was supposed to be extinguished, was divided between the members of the court and perhaps others, the lands thus disposed of extending along the Wabash river from La Pointe Coupee to the mouth of White river and forty leagues west and thirty east, excluding only the lands surrounding Vincennes, which had been granted to the old residents. The authors of this division had later perceived that their course was illegal, and the scheme was abandoned, but was revived a few years before 1802, and portions of the land purchased by speculators and sold fraudulently to eastern settlers. Harrison stated that upward of 500 persons had settled or would soon settle upon these lands in consequence of these frauds, that the owners pretended that the court had ample authority from Virginia to grant the land, and that speculators had gone to Virginia, had secured a deed for a large tract, had had it recorded and duly authenticated, and had then made their fraudulent transfers to the credulous.

A large amount of litigation rose from this condition of land claims, and it was several years before the claims were investigated and settled by the government commissioners. A more complete account of the subject is not pertinent to the history of Sullivan county. But the fact that much of this land got into the hands of speculators and was offered for sale in Virginia to prospective homeseekers no doubt explains the cause that attracted some of the first settlers to the region now included in Sullivan county.

The lands about Vincennes were, as already stated, ceded by the Indians to the French in 1742. But on June 7, 1803, General Harrison concluded a treaty with the Delawares, Shawnees, Pottawatomies, Miamis, Eel River Weas, Kickapoos, Piankeshaws and Kaskaskias, which confirmed this cession. The northern boundary of this cession, as described in the treaty, is a matter of history in Sullivan county. Pointe Coupee on

the Wabash, just above the mouth of the Busseron, was the principal point on this boundary. The line did not run due east and west through this point, but at an angle of 12 degrees from this direction, its general course being from northwest to southeast. The treaty also provided that in case some of settlements and locations of land made by the citizens of the United States should fall in the Indian country, the boundary might be altered to include these settlements.

This is the origin of the "Old Indian Boundary" in Sullivan county, a line that often figures in the land descriptions of the southern portion of the county. A small portion of the southwest corners of Gill and Jefferson townships is south of this line, and the greater part of Haddon township is by this line shown to be in the cession which was confirmed by the treaty of 1803. In Haddon township the boundary leaves the straight course at right angles so as to include within the ceded area a rectangular body of land lying about three miles northeast of the general direction of the boundary. In this rectangle is the town of Carlisle. It is probable that when the survey was made this deviation from the regular course was made in accordance with the clause of the treaty above noted, in order to include some settlement or settlements that otherwise would have been left in the uncaded Indian country.

#### *The Fort Settlements.*

In the boundaries of this "Old Purchase," as it was called, were planted the first settlements of Sullivan county. It is probable that in 1803, at the time of the treaty, some of the lands south of the Indian boundary were in the nominal possession of certain individuals who claimed them by right of one of the methods above described. So far as can be learned there was no actual settlement in Sullivan county previous to the year 1803. The family of James Ledgerwood came to this vicinity in

1803, and his is the first pioneer name of prominence in the county. It is hardly possible that he was the first and only person who deserved the honor of first making a home within the limits of the county. Others came, doubtless, about the same time, but either because they did not remain long or because they were not of the prominence to impress themselves on the memories of later residents, there is no record of name or fact concerning them.

The Ledgerwoods settled on the Busseron, as did the majority of the first comers to this region. In a few years the locality at the northern edge of the Old Purchase was called, for purposes of distinction, "the Busseron settlement," and in 1808, when the northern part of Knox county was set off into a single township, it received the name of Busseron. Busseron was the name of one of the leaders of the militia at Vincennes about 1790.

The Ledgerwood family settled west of Carlisle. When they constructed a habitation they also made it a castle of defense against the Indians. The distinguishing feature of the "block houses" or "forts," of which there were several in the southern part of the county in the first decade of the last century, was the projecting upper story, with numerous loopholes, from which the assailants were exposed to the guns of the defenders above, and all entrances to the building were thus guarded by the overhanging story.

These block houses were built of the very strongest timbers that could be obtained, and required both more time and labor for building than the ordinary log homes of the early settlers. When built they served not alone for the protection of the individual household, but each became a central gathering place and fortress for the entire neighborhood during times of danger.

In the vicinity of Carlisle and within the limits of what is now Sul-

livan county there were four block houses during the first decade of the century, each being the home of one of the prominent families of the county, and each one serving as a refuge for the other families living nearby. Fort Haddon was built about 1806, and took its name from the pioneer John Haddon and family, who came from Virginia in that year. Those who assisted in the construction of this fort were Frank Williams, Joel Price, Thomas Holder Sr., John Haddon, William Price, John McConnell, John Ingle, James Black, Thomas Anderson, Joel Collins, and Edward Purcell. A block house was also built by the Holder family, who settled here in 1807, and one by the Lismans. At the time of the Indian hostilities which preceded and continued through the war of 1812, these were the places where all the people of the vicinity gathered on occasion of an Indian alarm, and they naturally came to be known as Fort Haddon, Fort Holder, etc.

During the first decade of the last century little direct historical testimony can be found concerning the settlers about Carlisle and along the Busseron. An examination of the files of the Vincennes *Western Sun*, which began publication in 1807, brings to light an occasional item concerning the people of this vicinity. These items are often valuable in fixing the dates of settlement by different families.

At that time Vincennes was the business and official center for this county, and the inhabitants on the Busseron went there to get their mail and to transact all business that connected them with the outside world. A list of advertised letters at the Vincennes postoffice on July 1, 1807, discloses two names that belong to the pioneer history of this region—Samuel Ledgerwood and Robert Gill. The latter was no doubt a member of the family which gave name to the prairie in the southwest corner of this county and later to the township. The date when the Gill family reached Sullivan county cannot be given with assurance, but it is said that one



of the name was among the advance pioneers who explored this region before any of the permanent settlers had arrived. In the advertised letters for October, 1807, appeared the name "Jesse Haden."

Another evidence concerning the pioneer settlement was a notice published in the issue of December 2, 1807, of the incorporation of the Wabash Baptist church, including the members "residing on Bussroe," the notice being signed by Newton E. Westfall.

On April 3, 1809, an election was held for representative of Knox county. The electors of Busseron township, according to the published notice, were to meet at the house of John Haddon Esq. John Haddon was himself a candidate for the office of representative, receiving 120 votes in the county. Busseron township at this election cast 94 votes. Another election was held on May 22, 1809, for an additional representative to the legislature, and John Haddon was this time the successful candidate. He was probably the only member of the territorial legislatures who lived within the boundaries of the present Sullivan county.

Up to this time the country north of the Indian Boundary above described was not open to settlement, and thus the greater part of our present county had not been redeemed from barbarism. But in 1809 was effected a treaty with the Indians which not only brought into the public domain a large territory including this county, but was one of the causes for the uprising of the Indians under Tecumseh which preceded the opening of the war of 1812.

By the Indian treaty of September 30, 1809, the Indians ceded all the country between the boundary line established by the treaty of 1803, the Wabash river, and a line drawn from the mouth of Raccoon creek in a southeasterly direction to White river. Raccoon creek is a few miles above Terre Haute, so that by this treaty the United States public domain was extended from about the locality of Carlisle to about the northern



limit of Vigo county. The area gained by this treaty was called the "New Purchase," in distinction from the "Old Purchase," which lay south of the Indian Boundary line. These lands were not open for public entry and sale until 1816, but under land warrants and by actual occupation many settlers had gone into this region before this time.

But for five or six years after the treaty of 1809 the permanent settlements of this country were greatly disturbed and further influx of settlers much retarded by the Indian hostilities which preceded and accompanied the war of 1812. The Indians had not failed to regard with jealousy the gradual encroachment of the whites upon their hunting grounds, and when, in 1809, several of the tribes ceded a large tract of territory to the American government, Tecumseh opposed the treaty, declaring that one or several of the tribes could not barter away the lands that belonged to all the Indian nations in the confederacy. Despite the efforts of Governor Harrison toward breaking up the confederacy which had its center about Prophet's Town, the Indians became more hostile every day. Small parties appeared in different parts of the territory, stealing and occasionally taking the lives of settlers. Tecumseh and his brother became more insolent in the conference with the governor, and, on the eve of the second war with Great Britain, a secret British influence increased the disaffection of the tribes.

Then followed the campaign of General Harrison against the Indians, the building of Fort Harrison, the battle of Tippecanoe, which effectually broke the resistance of the Indian confederacy, the attack on Fort Harrison, and the subsequent desultory hostilities which kept all the settlers within reach of the forts and block houses throughout the duration of the war. These were events of general history, and only in a few instances concerned Sullivan county more than other counties. A few items in the *Western Sun* mention the movements of the troops through this county

and other incidents of the period. In the issue of November 23, 1811, it is stated that "on Sunday last the governor arrived with the army on the Busseron about 20 miles above here, where the troops from the eastern counties of the territory and Kentucky were discharged." In October, 1812, it is noted that Major General Samuel Hopkins with his army started up the river toward Prophet's Town, having about 4,000 men, 2,500 of whom were mounted volunteers. This was the unfortunate expedition which, partly owing to the incapacity of the leader and also to the rebellious conduct of the troops, left a record along its route of plunder and destruction among the white residents and against the real enemy effected little or nothing during the few weeks of the campaign. In the issue of the *Western Sun* of November 3, 1812, is the statement that the Kentucky mounted troops had returned to Busseron, where they were discharged.

A tax sale advertisement in the *Sun* of May 26, 1812, relating to delinquent taxpayers on Busseron creek, contains the names of some of the residents of that vicinity—John Dooley, John Culbert, Thomas Barton, Matthew Dobins, Abraham Huff, Daniel Hazelton, John Johnson, heirs of James Ledgerwood, and Francis Williams.

Of more interest is the following advertisement, dated May 16, 1814:—"Grist mill for sale. Will be exposed to public sale on the 3d day of June next, a saw and grist mill with five acres of land, laying on Busseron creek, formerly known by the name of Ledgerwood's Mill. Twelve months' credit will be given.—William Ledgerwood." This was the original mill of Sullivan county, and at this date the only one along Busseron creek except the one in the Shaker settlement.

Another item of civil affairs at this time was mention of the election in Busseron township to be held at the house of John Curry, which is the

first mention of that pioneer name in the annals of the county. This election notice is in the issue of June 29, 1814.

Recurring to the Indian hostilities of this period, there are a few brief items in the *Western Sun* that afford a contemporaneous view of some events which have a large place in the Indian annals of Sullivan county.

In the issue of December 3, 1814, is reported the fact that the Indians had again been committing depredations on the frontier. "On Saturday and Sunday nights last they stole a number of horses from the Busseron settlement." The paper of March 4, 1815, gives the report of one man killed and one wounded on the Busseron, this evidently referring to the Dudley Mack massacre. The *Sun* of May 13, 1815, has the following paragraph: "We have to record the murder of another of our fellow citizens by our *friends* the *Indians*. On Saturday night last Mr. Davis from Kentucky was killed by them near Fort Harrison. We have also learnt that the two boys taken prisoners by them some time ago on Busseron have been murdered." The last of these records of Indian hostilities in this vicinity is in the issue of May 20, 1815. "On the 13th Lieut. Morrison with 16 men was surprised and his party dispersed by the Indians between Busseron and Fort Harrison. Five bodies have been found and three are missing."

There are several local accounts of the Indian depredations which are thus briefly referred to in the newspaper items. In the former history of the county were published the various versions of the Dudley Mack and other Indian depredations, most of the information on the subject coming, it was said, from Dr. Helms. These accounts are repeated substantially as then given.

On Sunday afternoon, February 12, 1815, Dudley Mack and Madison Collins were on their way home from Shakertown, and had reached the

east side of Busseron creek, near Lisman's ford, on Survey 20, when they were surprised by four Indians, who commenced firing upon them, killing Mack instantly and wounding Collins severely. When Collins was struck he fell from his horse, and, though bleeding profusely from several wounds, he ran toward a road nearby, and just as he reached it his horse came dashing up to him. With the desperation of a drowning man he swung his body over the back of the faithful animal. At this instant one of the Indians ran up and hurled his tomahawk, which struck the horse in the ear and caused it to dash off at full speed toward the block house, three quarters of a mile distant. Arriving there the wounded man was well taken care of, but there being no surgeon nearer than Vincennes, one of the Haddons was posted off to that point, and hours had to elapse before the wounds could be properly dressed. Collins eventually recovered. The body of Mack was buried in the Jonathan Webb graveyard, on the edge of Gill's prairie.

On the same afternoon of the above occurrence, two boys, named Campbell and Edwards, took their guns with them when they went for the cows, intending to kill some wolves which had been seen in their neighborhood. They never returned from the woods, and were never heard of again, though it was reported in the *Sun*, as above stated, that they were murdered.

The most interesting and detailed account of the country along the Wabash and about Fort Harrison as it was at the close of the war of 1812 and when settlement was just beginning to change the wilderness is afforded in an old book, entitled "Travels through the Western Country in the Summer of 1816," by David Thomas. The book was printed in 1819, and some of the facts have been brought up to 1819, though in general the diary kept by this industrious and observing traveler describes things as they were during the summer of 1816. The author had journeyed down



the Ohio and up to Vincennes, and it is after setting out from the old capital that we will join the traveler as he passes over the country from Vincennes to the northern edge of settlement.

*Shakertown.*

“Eight miles above Vincennes we passed from the woodland flats into the south end of the prairie that extends up to Shakertown. . . . Shakertown, the residence of the Shakers, consists of eight or ten houses of hewn logs, situate on a ridge west of the bayou, eighteen miles above Vincennes. The site is moderately elevated. As we approached, the blackness of the soil, and the luxuriance of vegetation, was peculiarly attractive; but much water was standing on the low ground to the east; and a mill pond on Busseron creek must suffuse the whole village with unwholesome exhalations. . . . The number of inhabitants is estimated at two hundred, who live in four families. . . . Marriage is prohibited. From dancing, as an act of devotion, their name is derived. Like several other sects, they conform to great plainness in apparel, but their garb is peculiar. In language they are also very distinguishable. . . . In their dealings they are esteemed as very honest and exemplary. Until within a few months they entertained travelers without any compensation; but the influx has become so great that they have found it necessary to depart from this practice. . . . The estate at this place consists of about 1,300 acres. The mills which they have erected are a great accommodation to this part of the country, and to these they have added carding machines. . . . These people settled here before the late war [1812-15]; but after their estate was ravaged by the troops who went with Hopkins on his expedition, they sought refuge amongst their own sect in Ohio and Kentucky, and only returned last summer. . . .



"After procuring some refreshment [at Shakertown], we resumed our journey—turning eastward, and nearly at right angles to the river, intending to visit M. Hoggatt, to whom we had been directed by our friends at Lick Creek. He resides on a farm belonging to the Shakers, at the distance of seven miles. . . . Our friend has resided between two and three years on this farm. On his first removal from North Carolina, he fixed his abode at Blue River; but came hither to explore the lands of the New Purchase previous to the sale. These lands have excited much attention, but various circumstances have conspired to prevent the surveys from being completed. . . .

*French Lands.*

"To satisfy the claims of the old French settlers, the United States directed to be set apart all the lands bounded on the west by the Wabash river; on the south by the White river; on the east by the West branch; and on the north by the north bounds of the Old Purchase. Four hundred acres was assigned to each person entitled to a donation. The land has never been surveyed by order of the government, consequently it has never been regularly performed; and the maps of this territory within these boundaries are generally blank. . . . All lands held in this quarter are therefore under French grants (except some militia claims). In locating, it was necessary to begin at the general boundary, or at some corner of lands, the lines of which would lead thither; but no course was given, and the claimant settled the point with his surveyor as he deemed most to his interest. . . .

*From Shakertown to Fort Harrison.*

"Accompanied by our kind friend M. H. [Hoggatt] we commenced our journey for Fort Harrison. Our road led northwesterly

through prairies principally composed of clay, though very fertile and interspersed with fine farms. . . . At the end of seven miles we crossed [Busseron creek] at a mill. . . . We then passed through barrens (so called), which produced corn of uncommon luxuriance. . . . At the distance of three miles we came out into the Gill's prairie, where the extent and beauty of the scene and the luxuriance of the corn excited our admiration; but the driftwood was deposited in lines above the level of no inconsiderable part of this fine tract. Indeed, we have seen none except the Vincennes prairie that is free from bayous. . . . This bayou, ten miles in length, receives its waters from Turtle creek.

"We were now within the limits of the New Purchase, and consequently none of the few inhabitants who have fixed here can have titles to the land except through the intervention of Canadian claimants.

"At Turtle Creek the woodland commences. . . . Our route still led through woodlands. We had five miles further to travel, and the approach of evening induced us to mend our pace. But it became dark before we arrived at Tarman's [Turman's] where we lodged. . . . This person with his family resided here before the late war. A small prairie of 200 or 300 acres, known by his name, and bordered by thick woods, except toward the river, chiefly contains the improvements. Last spring they removed from the prairie to a new cabin in the woodlands, near the road. The upper story of this building projects for the purpose of defense; and may serve as a memorial of the apprehensions which overspread the white settlers before the late treaty with the Indians at Fort Harrison. A short time before the approach of those persons who came with Hopkins, this family, fearful of the Indians, abandoned their dwelling and retired down the river. In the hurry of removal many articles were

necessarily left behind. When the band arrived they wasted everything that could be found; and the sons told me that their hogs and neat cattle were wantonly shot down, and left untouched where they fell. . . .

“After breakfast we continued our journey. Several families have fixed their abode one or two miles further north; and so much confidence has been felt in the right of possession that a sawmill has been erected in the present season [1816] on a small creek. We should be gratified hereafter to learn that such industry and enterprise have been respected. In this neighborhood we passed a coal mine, which has been recently opened, though the work has been but partially performed. . . . As the excavation is made in the channel of a small brook, the torrent, by removing the loose earth, doubtless led to this discovery. All the strata of this fossil that we have seen in the western country has appeared near the surface; and it would not surprise me, if it should be brought forth in a thousand places where the shovel and the pickaxe have never yet been employed. . . .”

### CHAPTER III.

#### ORGANIZATION OF SULLIVAN COUNTY.

During 1815 and 1816 there was a large immigration into the northern portion of Knox county. Settlement had progressed as far north as Fort Harrison and with the opening of the land sales for the New Purchase lands in 1816 all the desirable tracts were quickly taken up. There was every reason for the division of the old Knox county and the creation from its territory of several new civil divisions. The prospect of the creation of a new county excited considerable speculative activity in the laying out and promotion of townsites which at the proper time would be in a position to bid for the privilege of becoming the county seat of the new county.

The history of the town of Carlisle, elsewhere given, shows that this prospect was at the origin of that village. Up to this time the settlers in this vicinity had been grouped in the vicinity of the block houses and the Ledgerwood mill, but there was as yet no townsite. The first sale of lots in the townsite of Carlisle occurred June 23, 1815. But other rivals were also contending for the honors of being the seat of justice for the county which everyone confidently expected would be formed within a year.

The town of Busseron was also promoted. The proprietors of the site were James B. McCall and James Dunkin. Their agent, David Porter, in an advertisement dated at Busseron June 21, 1815, announced: "This town was first named and published 'Indiana,' the proprietors for the sake of conspicuity have changed it to Busseron. The town is laid out in squares, with 12 lots in a square. In the center is a square reserved for county buildings. . . . Busseron is situated on the north end of the beautiful prairie of the same name, twenty miles north of Vincennes, two miles from the Shaker settlement, one mile from Busseron creek, and three miles from the Wabash. . . . There is a fine settlement around this place, . . . two saw and two grist mills within two to five miles. . . . There is every prospect of this place being the seat of justice of the new county."

This was not the only townsite laid out as the prospective county seat. In 1816 Monroe was elected president of the United States, and two citizens of Sullivan county sought to commemorate his name by giving it to a town. These citizens were Benjamin Turman and Thomas C. Shields. It is known that the former was one of the first settlers on Turman's prairie, and it is probable that the town of Monroe was in what is now Turman township. What we know about this townsite is derived from an advertisement in the *Western Sun* of June 28, 1817. The proprietors above named advertise that in consequence of the seat of justice having been located elsewhere, on payment of the first installment on the lots sold in Monroe and the return of the title bonds, the purchasers would be released from further payments.

The history of the organization of Sullivan county and the location of its first seat of justice cannot be told in detail, since there are no county records of the period. An act of the legislature in January, 1816, directed that the townships of Palmyra and Busseron in Knox county be



extended north to the "Harrison purchase line," meaning thereby to the line of the purchase of 1809. This placed, temporarily, all of the territory later comprised in Sullivan and Vigo counties in the two townships named, and so it remained until the organization of the new county. An election notice published in May, 1816, mentions two names one of which is especially well known as a pioneer of Sullivan county. The election was designated to be held in the house of William Purcell for Palmyra township and in the house of Joseph Latshaw for Busseron township.

Another item in the *Sun* is also of interest at this time just before the organization of the county. The matter of Canadian land warrants has been referred to in the extract from the Thomas travel journal. In the *Western Sun* of May 25, 1816, attention is called to an act granting bounties in land and extra pay to "certain Canadian volunteers," passed by Congress March 5, 1816. President Madison proclaimed that the warrants might be located on lands in either the Vincennes or Jeffersonville districts.

The first public sale of lands in the New Purchase occurred a few months before the organization of Sullivan county. It was through this sale that the better lands of the county were purchased and a most important step taken toward the permanent settlement of the country. Previous to that time many settlers had located north of the old Indian Boundary line, but their rights in the land were those of actual settlement, without legal title to their homes.

The following paragraph from the Thomas diary concerns the land sales: "All the best lands near the Wabash river, which have not been reserved by the government or located by Canadian claimants, were sold at auction in the 9 mo., 1816. Much land of the second and third quality (and no inconsiderable part of these kinds is very fertile), remained,

however, for an entry of two dollars an acre payable within four years, by installments. One Fourth within two years and the remainder in two equal annual payments. This condition is the rule; and eight percent interest is added to all payments after such become due, and eight percent discount is allowed for prompt pay. Thus, lands paid for at the time of entry cost only one dollar and sixty-three cents [\$1.83?] an acre. To accommodate persons who may be unprepared to make a payment in full—or who may wish to secure a lot while they make further discoveries—lands are permitted to be entered for a certain number of days. This privilege, however, has been abused. Entries have been made for the sum of sixteen dollars (one-twentieth of the purchase money), which confers the right to remove within forty days every valuable timber tree from the premises; and if no other purchaser appears, the term is even lengthened to 90 days. Last winter (1817-18) from five to ten dollars was the price of prairie lands, and from two to five the price of wood lands.”

The following list of land purchasers in Sullivan county during the years 1816 and 1817 preserves the names of some of the pioneer citizens. Some of those whose names are given were no doubt speculative purchasers, who invested in the lands without intention of permanent settlement. For this and other reasons the names on the land patents of these years do not include all the settlers of the county up to this date. The names are given by congressional townships:

Township 6, range 8 (principally Jefferson township)—Robert Bedwell, Thomas Trimble, John Purcell, S. Shepard.

Township 7, range 8 (north part of Jefferson and portions of Haddon and Cass)—John Purdy.

Township 8, range 8 (Jackson township)—Willoughby Pugh and William Pugh.

Township 6, range 9 (the central part of Haddon, and most of it south of the Indian Boundary and in the area of the Donations and Surveys)—James Wason, John W. Nash, Stephen Milam, Richard Maxwell.

Township 7, range 9 (the northeast corner of Haddon, the south half of Hamilton, and a corner of Gill townships)—Thomas Hamilton, Thomas Pitts, William Purdy, John South, Jesse Haddon, John Pinkler, Thomas Creager, James Curry, A. N. McClelland, Eli Newlin, John Creager, Charles Hill, Henry South, Samuel Ledgerwood, Jonathan Batsom, Andrew Wilkins, John Haddon, Moses Milam, Samuel McClure, John Sinclair, Andrew Hamilton, John Robbins, Abraham Johnson, Jr., William Hamilton, George Boon, Morgan Eaton, H. S. Eaton, Robert Murphy, Titus Willard, Charles Scott. Friend Lemon, C. & F. Bullett, Patrick Smith, John Hall, Simeon Smith, Matthew McCammon, Brook Howell.

Township 8, range 9 (north half of Hamilton township, including Sullivan)—Paschal Shelburn, William Pugh, Samuel Smith, Thomas Hamilton, C. Crabtree, Eli Sinclair.

Township 9, range 9 (Curry township)—Thomas Carrithers, James Wier, William S. Watson, John Curry, Shadrack Sherman, William Curry, Calvin Curry, Isaac Hill.

Township 6, range 10 (southwest corner of Haddon and south part of Gill)—John Campbell, John Wallace, John Bond, Epenetus Webb, Jonathan Graham, Benjamin Sherman, Eli Joseph, Joseph Ridgeway, Uriah Joseph, James Duncan.

Township 7, range 10 (north part of Gill township, including Merom and New Lebanon)—John West, Ephraim West, Smith Hansbaugh, Edward Neal, James Jones, William Sherman, John Scott, Elizabeth Shepard, Joseph Warner, Felter & Hedges, William Lester, James Caldwell, John Booth, John B. Daugherty, C. & F. Bullett, Anthony and Richard Bumett, John Widener, Evan Rice, Levi Springer, David Thompson, Samuel Ray, William Hill, Samuel Elliott, Robert McNair, Samuel Smith, Samuel Ledgerwood, Jonathan Graham, Robert Polk, William Nudford, William Burnett, Andrew Wilkins, William Polk, Richard Maxwell, Thomas and John Bennett, John White, Peter Elliott, Abner Vickery, Jesse Haddon, William South, John Hopewell, Aaron Thompson, Abijah and Joseph Thomas, Henry French, Rankin Chandler, John C. Riley,

Jacob Mumay, Thomas Edwards, Silas Dean, John Sproat, Elisha Boudmot, Alexander Chamberlain.

Township 8, range 10 (east half of Turman township)—John Flannagan, Jesse Davis, John McKee, Abraham Stagg, William Johnson, James B. McCall, John Miller, William Woods, Thomas N. White, Isaac Brocaw, John Haddon, Abraham McClelland, George Kirby, Seth Cushman, David Wilkins, Josiah Bryant, Henry Little, Benjamin Turman, Richard Posey, William Harper, James Harper, Arnold Potter.

Township 9, range 10 (all of Fairbanks township except the land along the river)—Phillip Frakes, John Gordon, William McGuire, Samuel Chambers, William Bryant, William Kelsoe, Jesse Ropel, Thomas Armstrong, Reuben Moore, Shadrack Ernest, Thomas Robbins, Ludwick Ernest, James Pogue, Joseph Chambers, James D. Piety, James Lee, I. W. Drennan, Alexander Clark, Gideon Long, James Drake, James Patten, Edward H. Ransford, Isaac Hand, Joseph Thompson, William Sherman, Benjamin Harris, Robert Wier, William Patten, Elijah Payne.

Township 7, range 11 (fractional along the river)—John White, John C. Riley.

Township 8, range 11 (fractional, being the west side of Turman township)—John Lester, W. Lawrence, Thomas White, Jr., John White, J. C. Haliburt, Arthur Patterson, William White, John Seaton, Jonathan Lindley, William Harlow, James B. McCall, Benjamin Turman, Samuel Chambers, George Rogers, Clark Sullivan, Jonah Bryant, Nathaniel Ernest.

Township 9, range 11 (west fractional sections of Fairbanks)—Ambrose Whitlock, Philip Smoyer, William Patten.

The act for the organization of Sullivan county, quoted at length in the following paragraphs, was passed in December, 1816, and contained the following essential provisions: The organization was to take place in the following January, and the county seat was to be located in the latter part of February. The area of the new county was much more extensive than that of the present Sullivan county, but was not so large as has been frequently stated. The county jurisdiction did not extend



north as far as the north line of the state, but only to the north line of the New Purchase, a few miles above Terre Haute. The western boundary was the Wabash river and the state line, and the county extended east approximately to the White river. The house of James Sproule in the recently platted town of Carlisle (see history of Carlisle) was designated as the first court house, to be used until the permanent location of the seat of justice and the erection of county buildings. The other and detailed provisions of the organic act follow :

*An act for the formation of a new county out of the county of Knox.*

Section 1. Be it enacted by the general assembly of the state of Indiana, That from and after the 15th day of January next, all that part of the county of Knox contained within the following boundaries shall constitute and form a separate county, viz.: Beginning on the Wabash river where the line dividing townships 5 and 6 crosses the same, thence running east with said line until it strikes the West Fork of White river, thence up the said fork to the Orange county line, thence with said line to the Indian Boundary line, thence with the said boundary line crossing the Wabash river to the line dividing the state of Indiana and the Territory of Illinois, thence with said line south to the Wabash river, thence down the said river with the meanders thereof to the place of beginning.

Sec. 2. The said new county shall be known and designated by the name and style of the county of Sullivan, and shall enjoy all the rights, privileges and jurisdictions which to separate counties do or may properly belong or appertain: *Provided always*, that all suits, pleas, plains, actions and proceedings in law or equity which may have been commenced or instituted before the said 15th day of January next and shall be pending in the county of Knox shall be prosecuted and determined in the same manner as if this act had not been passed: *Provided also*, that all taxes which may on the said 15th of January next remain due and unpaid within the bounds of the said new county of Sullivan shall be collected and paid in the same manner and by the same officers as if the said new county had not been erected.



Sec. 3. Isaac Montgomery and William Harrington, of Gibson county, John B. Drennen and Andrew Purcell, of Knox county, and James G. Reed, of Daviess county, be and they are hereby appointed commissioners agreeably to an act entitled "An act for fixing the seats of justice in all new counties hereafter laid off," whose duty it shall be on receiving notice of their appointment as hereinafter provided to repair to the house of James Sproule in the said new county of Sullivan on the 20th day of February next and proceed to fix the seat of justice for the said county of Sullivan agreeably to the true intent and meaning of the above recited act, and it shall be the duty of the Sheriff of the county of Knox to notify the said commissioners either in person or by written notification of their said appointments at least five days previous to the time appointed for the meeting of said commissioners, and the said sheriff shall be allowed a reasonable compensation for his services out of the first moneys in the treasury of said county of Sullivan, to be allowed and paid as other county claims usually are.

Sec. 4. The circuit and other courts of the said county of Sullivan shall be holden at the house of James Sproule until the public buildings are in such state of forwardness that the circuit court of said county shall deem it expedient to adjourn said court to the place established for the seat of justice of said county, after which time the said courts shall be holden at the seat of justice established as aforesaid.

Sec. 5. The said county of Sullivan shall be attached to and form a part of the first circuit, and the circuit courts for said county of Sullivan shall commence and be held at the place aforesaid for holding said courts on the Mondays next succeeding the week in which the circuit courts are directed by law to be held in the county of Daviess; *Provided*, that the agent to be appointed for said county of Sullivan shall reserve in his hands ten per centum out of the proceeds of the sale of the town lots at the seat of justice for said county, and shall pay the same over to such person as may hereafter be appointed by law to receive the same, for the use of a library for said county; *And provided also*, that the said county of Sullivan shall form a part of the representative and senatorial districts for the county of Knox, until altered by law.

This act shall be in force from and after the 15th day of January next.

Approved December 30, 1816.

Jonathan Jennings.

Isaac Blackford,

Speaker of the house of representatives.

Christopher Harrison,

President of the senate.

Carlisle was the county seat for about two years. Perhaps some of the court sessions were held, as the law directed, at the house of James Sproule, but there is a well circulated tradition that the judge and lawyers and litigants often held court in the open air under the shelter of a large beech tree that once spread its broad shade in the village.

Of the official acts of the commissioners and courts during this interesting period only fragmentary records remain. One of these is an advertisement in the *Western Sun*, dated November 20, 1817, signed by B. Johnson, Sheriff, announcing that he will expose certain lots in Terre Haute for sale for delinquent taxes. "The sale will commence at 10 o'clock at the court house in the town of Carlisle, Indiana." At that time Terre Haute was within the jurisdiction of Sullivan county, the organization of Vigo county being effected the following year.

A similar announcement of delinquent tax sale, dated January 17, 1818, refers to the town of Busseron, which, like Monroe, with the collapse of its county seat prospects, had failed to grow. There were 47 lots advertised for this sale, the owners' names being unknown. This is evidence that these towns, like many other towns laid out in a new country, were founded for speculative purposes, and the lots were largely sold to non-residents.

The principal institution of the town of Busseron was the old Ledgerwood mill. Though the court house went to Carlisle, this old mill seat

for many years continued to supply the residents of this vicinity with flour, lumber, whiskey and other commodities of pioneer manufacture. An advertisement in the *Western Sun* dated "December, 1816, Busseron," and signed by Morgan Eaton, reads as follows: "The subscriber is happy to inform the inhabitants of Knox county and vicinity that his distillery is now in complete operation. Orders for whiskey, gin, etc., will be punctually attended to. He will sell corn whiskey at 75 cents a gallon, rye whiskey at one dollar per gallon, until change of market."

There is brief mention of another resident of that time at Busseron in the issue of April 21, 1817. James Dunkin advertises lots for sale in the town, among them three lots with buildings, store and tavern. All traces of these early business activities have long since disappeared from the site.

A pioneer of Carlisle and vicinity, who is elsewhere mentioned, was an advertiser in the *Sun* in January, 1817,—“Kenewha salt of the first quality for sale by John Duly, in Busseron prairie, one mile from Carlisle, which will be sold for cash, furs and skins, or for produce such as corn and wheat.”

The first general election held in Sullivan county after its organization occurred in August, 1817, at which 155 votes were cast for Posey and 126 for Hendricks, they being the rival candidates for the office of congressman from this state.

After careful comparison of the existing records relating to the founding and early history of Carlisle and Merom, it is reasonable to conclude that Carlisle was never officially selected as the county seat of Sullivan county. The organic act designated the house of James Sproule as the temporary seat of justice until the permanent location and until the new county buildings were ready. For this reason Carlisle held the honor of being the county seat for a year or more. But in the account of

Merom (elsewhere given) it appears that the county agent who managed the sale of lots for the county seat issued his announcement of this sale at Merom in June, 1817, and it is reasonable to suppose that the commissioners had previous to that time decided upon the location for the court house. However, it is probable that the actual removal of the seat of justice to Merom did not occur until the following year. Traditional accounts fix 1819 as the date when court sessions and other county business began to be transacted in Merom.

## CHAPTER IV.

### THE PIONEER MEN AND WOMEN—GENESIS OF THE EARLY SETTLERS.

The preceding pages have narrated the general course of events up to and including the organization of Sullivan county. Many individuals have been mentioned, some more frequently and prominently than others. Much must always remain unsaid concerning the pioneer citizens of any locality, the data having long since disappeared. The following paragraphs represent an effort to place on record, from such material as could be obtained, the essential facts relating to a large number of individuals and families who may be classed as pioneers. The classification of pioneers in this instance is an arbitrary one. The word is usually an elastic term, and is here most applied to those persons who came into the county to reside before the year 1840. Some names will not be found in this record which would be expected to occur there, for the reason that some of these characters seem more properly assignable to the chapters on the bench and bar, the medical profession, and other divisions.

The pioneer member of the Akin family, which has been so prominent in the county and particularly about Carlisle, was Ransom W. Akin, who was a merchant at Carlisle from 1838 until relieved of active duties



by his sons. He died June 18, 1880, aged about seventy-four. As to the family origin, Virginia was the native state of his parents, who had emigrated to Clark county, Indiana, almost at the beginning of the nineteenth century. For a few years Colonel Akin was in the banking business at Bloomington. He left six sons and three daughters, and had lost three children by death.

The late James L. Allan, who died at Sullivan March 15, 1904, was one of the county's venerable citizens, having spent nearly seventy years here as a resident. He was born in Nelson county, Kentucky, February 14, 1818, came to this county with his parents in 1835, was married at the age of eighteen to Rachel Louise Eaton (who died in 1897), and spent his life as a farmer. He was a member of the Methodist church.

On July 31, 1876, died at Carlisle the head of one of the most prominent families of the county. Joshua Alsop had been identified with the business and civic interests of the county many years, but had repeatedly refused to accept public office, until 1870, when he was elected and served a term in the state senate. He was born in Northumberlandshire, England, September 5, 1807. His parents and the three other children left England May 18, 1818, and after living a year at Walls Corners, New York, set out for the west, York, Illinois, being their destination. Most of the journey was made in a flatboat. It is not known in just what year Joshua Alsop moved to Sullivan county, but he was prominent in the construction of the first railroad through the county. A charter was granted to the Vincennes and Terre Haute Railroad in 1851, and when this line was consolidated with the Vincennes and Evansville he was elected a director of the new road, the Evansville and Crawfordsville. While a resident of Carlisle he showed a liberal hand in supporting the

public schools. He subscribed liberally toward the school building that was erected in 1857, and when it was completed he offered a loan to relieve the schoolhouse of the builder's lien. He married, February 14, 1837, Margaret Calvert, who was born in Washington county, Kentucky, May 10, 1811, and died October 10, 1877. They had seven children.

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From Kentucky came the Arnetts, of Gill and Haddon townships. The date of the removal of Levin Arnett to this county is not given exactly, though his son William was born in Gill township in 1823, and the family have always been spoken of among the early settlers of the county.

One of the fine old Christian gentlemen of Curry township was Elder John Bailey, who died at his home on Palmer's prairie, July 6, 1877. He was past eighty, having been born September 15, 1795, in Jefferson county, Kentucky. The family moved to Orange county, Indiana, about 1805. The father was one of those restless pioneers who prepare the ground for permanent occupation but are satisfied to leave the fruits of their endeavors to others. It was his practice to clear farms, make improvements, then sell, and move further back into the wilderness and begin the process over again. John Bailey assisted him until he was twenty years old when he married Elizabeth Henry, and settled in Lawrence county on Pleasant run. He was a pioneer, and had to travel thirty miles to mill. About 1836 he was converted and immersed by Elder Isaac Martin, an event which changed the whole manner of his life. He was thereafter one of the strong members of the Christian church, and died in that faith. He settled on Curry's prairie in 1845. His first wife died in 1863, and the following year he married Elizabeth Harris.

In the issue of the *Democrat* of January 2, 1878, was announced the death of Henry Barnard. As first president of the national bank organized at Sullivan in 1872, he had for several years been a citizen of marked influence. He was a man of fine culture and attainments, was lavish in the expenditure of his large means, and showed his generosity in support of every benevolent enterprise. Failing health had caused his resignation from the bank several years before his death, and he spent the remaining years in Bucksport, Maine.

Ferdinand Basler was a citizen whose life and services are still well remembered in the county. A native of Switzerland, he came to this county in November, 1848, was engaged in business in town and also at farming; in 1855 was elected justice of the peace of Hamilton township, served as county auditor from March, 1864, to March, 1868. In 1872 he became a member of the state board of agriculture, and the following year was appointed by that board a delegate to the Vienna exposition of 1873. He assisted in laying out Center Ridge cemetery and was president of the board of directors at the time of his death, and was president of the county agricultural society two years.

William E. Beard served as a commissioner of the county six years. He lived in Sullivan county from 1826 until his death in Turman township, May 14, 1865. He was born in Nelson county, Kentucky, in 1804, and was a member of the Christian church.

Among the pioneers of southern origin may be mentioned the Bedwells, Elisha and Susan (Hinkle), who came from Kentucky and North Carolina respectively, the Collinses, Willias S. and Mary (Hoke), who brought their family from Kentucky to Haddon township in 1837; the

Corbins, Vincent Corbin having come from his native state of Virginia first to Kentucky, and in 1829 to Sullivan county; the Davidsons, of whom Daniel was the pioneer who moved to this county not long after the war of 1812-15, one of whose sons was Thomas E., born in Haddon township in 1819 (died February 5, 1895), and long known as a prosperous farmer. The Nash family was transplanted from Kentucky to this county by Marvel W. Nash sometime about the '20s. Another Kentucky family, related by marriage to the Nashes, was the Shakes, the pioneer David Shake having moved from Oldham county, Kentucky, to Haddon township in 1830. Other Kentuckians who belonged to this group of pioneer settlers in Haddon township were Benjamin Ridgway and John Snyder, who, with their descendants, have been well known people in the vicinity of Paxton for the past eighty years. Sometime before 1823 Joseph Trimble brought his family from Kentucky to Haddon township. Luke and Samuel Walters each brought families from Kentucky to this county, during the early thirties, and the name has been familiar in Haddon township for many years.

One of the last survivors of the war with Mexico was Willis Benefield, who died at his home in Sullivan, March 23, 1902. He was a member of Captain Briggs' company in the war, being then a young man of about twenty-four years. The family have been identified with this county since 1836, when the mother moved here from Illinois. Willis was born in Lawrence county, Indiana, in 1822, and in 1850 married Elizabeth Maxwell, by whom there were three children.

During the pioneer days of this county, it was very rare that a settler of foreign birth came to the county. One such was Adam F. Bensing, who was born in Germany in 1787, who came to Sullivan county



about 1830, and was the founder of family of honored activities and connections.

Jesse Bicknell, who died in December, 1882, was clerk of the county two terms, and had also served as deputy in the office when Major Griffith was clerk. Mr. Bicknell was born in Kentucky the latter part of 1829, at an early age was thrown on his own responsibilities, and about 1855 began working in the store of John Giles at New Lebanon.

William Blackburn was lieutenant colonel of the Seventh Illinois Cavalry, having entered the service as captain, August 10, 1861. He was wounded in Mississippi, May 5, 1863, and died twelve days later. He was a member of the Presbyterian church at Carlisle, and also Carlisle Lodge No. 50, I. O. O. F.

A unique distinction belonged to William Bledsoe, who died at his home in Dugger, November 14, 1905, in his eightieth year. It was asserted that he was without doubt the most famous hunter the county ever produced. He had lived in the eastern part of the county since he was grown, and throughout his active life was an ardent and successful Nimrod. The claim is made that he killed the last wild deer which was ever seen in the county. He had a record of killing sixteen deer in three consecutive mornings. He was born in Lawrence county, Indiana, October 29, 1826.

William Alfred Bruner, who died April 8, 1902, had been identified with the town of Farmersburg for nearly half a century. In 1858 he had established a general store and grain market at that place, during the sixties was engaged largely in farming, and then began the manufacture of a healing compound known as "Bruner's Balsam," the patent for which



in 1880 he disposed of to an eastern firm. He had served as postmaster at Farmersburg during the administrations of Buchanan and Lincoln, and was a justice of the peace three terms. He was a native of England, born in 1825, had to contend with poverty and had few educational opportunities, and for a number of years was employed in hospitals and asylums at Bristol, where he met his wife, Phoebe Say. He came to America in 1851, and began work at a dollar a day, but rapidly rose in prosperity.

Jacob Booker at his death, January 22, 1882, was one of the oldest residents of the county. He was born in Jefferson county, Kentucky, in 1798, and had located in Indiana when about twenty-one years old. He lived many years in the northeast part of Haddon township.

In his reminiscences of the early Indiana courts and bar, Oliver H. Smith relates the ridiculous experience of State Senator George Boon(e), in courting a young lady in his neighborhood. Whether this incident happened in Sullivan county is not related, but it was probably founded, in fact or romance, in Kentucky, where Boon's family home belonged. He claimed relationship with the great Daniel Boone. George Boon was called in later years the Abraham Lincoln of Sullivan county. He was nearly seven feet tall, of massive proportions. His large feet came in for the greater part of the ridicule and jokes at his expense. Despite his ungainly body he was a very popular man, and was repeatedly elected to the legislature. During his service in the assembly the question of internal improvements was the most discussed and more nearly concerned the people than any other affair. Boon was opposed to the state undertaking internal improvements on the scale then demanded, and his failure to ask, or obtain, anything for his county in this direction was the cause of his defeat by Colonel Haddon for one term, when he was again successful,

and he continued in the legislature until his death, at the age of about 57. He wanted to go to Congress, and at one time was in opposition to John W. Davis and John Ewing, the latter gaining the coveted honor.

Tavner Bowen, who died December 1, 1890, and was buried in the Indian Prairie cemetery, had lived in this vicinity many years, and was the first president of the F. M. B. A. Lodge 2903. He was born in Jessamine county, Kentucky, January 1, 1818, and at the age of eighteen moved to Indiana with his parents, settling in Knox county. In 1838 he married Anna Robbins, and came to Sullivan county, where he passed the remainder of his life. He was the father of ten children. In 1844 he united with the Indian Prairie Baptist church under Rev. Stephen Kennedy. In February, 1864, he enlisted in Captain Gillman's company (C) of the 120th Regiment and served till the close of the war. He also served as a justice of the peace in his township.

It was said of James Brewer, who died near Fairbanks, October, 1889, aged sixty-eight, that he was a prominent man not because of offices held, but for his virtues. The Masons conducted his funeral, and J. H. Meteer came from Crawfordsville to preach the sermon. He was a member of the Brewer family which has so numerous and actively been identified with the county, was born in Butler county, Ohio, and came to this county when he was two or three years old.

William Brewer died at his home in Turman township, October 24, 1899, one of the oldest native citizens of this part of the county, having been born near Graysville, March 26, 1826. He was a farmer most of his life, but was also a member of the firm of Brewer and Burton of Sul-

livan. His first wife was Mary Ann Hawkins, who died in 1867, and in 1868 he married Amelia Miles of New Lebanon, who died in 1893. In 1895 he married Rebecca Thornberry of Graysville.

The Brewer family, one of whose representatives is Orlando C. Brewer of Fairbanks township, was founded in Sullivan county before 1820, by John and Mary (Cook) Brewer. John Brewer once cultivated a farm on land that is now included within the city of Terre Haute, and from there moved to Graysville, where most of his life was spent, being a merchant there, and a member of the Methodist church. He died May 20, 1880, in his eighty-fourth year.

At New Lebanon, during the forties, quite an industry was carried on in the building of flat-boats for the Wabash river traffic. One of the pioneers who engaged in this business at that place was Richard Anderson Bland. He was a cabinet maker at Carlisle and New Lebanon, and also had a sawmill. He spent his last years at Sullivan, where he died August 3, 1904, in his ninetieth year. He was a venerable citizen and early resident of the Methodist community at New Lebanon, and it was his distinction to have been a member of the church over sixty-five years, and to have assisted in the building of the old Methodist church at New Lebanon as also the present church edifice there and likewise the M. E. church at Sullivan. He was born in Nelson county, Kentucky, January 6, 1815, when a boy moved with the family to New Albany, and in 1834 the family home was established at New Lebanon, where, in January, 1835, he married Eusebia Mason. William H. and Thomas F. Bland were among the nine children of this union. After the death of his first wife in 1876 Mr. Bland married Amelia Ann Allen, who died in 1891.

The Burnett family which belongs to the early pioneer epoch of Sullivan county was especially identified with Gill prairie and New Lebanon. The date assigned for the settlement of the family on this prairie was 1813. Joseph Burnett, the son of the original settler, died in the county February 10, 1876. He was born in Kentucky, September 13, 1809. He was a Democrat and Methodist, and a wholesome citizen of his time.

John R. Burnett, another member of the family, died at New Lebanon, January 21, 1892, aged eighty-eight years. At one time he owned all the land on which New Lebanon is built, but lost most of his property by going security.

Stephen G. Burton, who died October, 1875, at one time represented Sullivan county in the legislature.

On September 25, 1890, passed away one of the oldest men of Sullivan county. Christian Canary was probably the last survivor of the war of 1812 in Sullivan county. Born near Danville, Mercer county, Kentucky, May 7, 1792, he married Nancy South, on June 8, 1812, and soon afterward enlisted for service in the war with Great Britain, under Captain Lankister and General Carter. In October, 1816, with his father-in-law, Henry South, he moved to what was then the northern part of Knox county, but which in the following winter was made Sullivan county. The name is especially identified with the Gill township neighborhood, where a son of Christian Canary still lives, himself now an old man. One of the celebrations of age and family which had more than picturesque interest was the gathering of relatives, descendants and friends on the 4th of May, 1882, in honor of the ninetieth birthday of this patriot and pioneer. There was dinner, music by the Sullivan Opera House band,



stories of the old time, and the festivity and pathos that mark such an occasion. Christian Canary joined the Methodist church when eighteen, was one of that Methodist community that made New Lebanon a center of church and educational affairs fifty years ago, and to the end of his life remained a member of the church.

The name of William Curry has been perpetuated in Curry township, which was named in his honor, as the first settler. He came there about 1817 from Kentucky, and was followed by Samuel and Robert Curry. Not only these pioneers, but many of their children have passed away, and only representatives of the third and fourth generation are now resident in the county. Thomas Franklin Curry was probably the first of the family to claim this county as his birthplace. He was born in Curry township October 4, 1818, and died January 1, 1878, leaving ten children. He was a member of the Presbyterian church 44 years.

Another branch of the Curry family was represented by John F. Curry, who died at Sullivan, October 30, 1889. He was born near Terre Haute, in 1824, a son of James Curry, who was a pioneer in the vicinity of Vincennes. John F. Curry lived for many years at Carlisle, having learned the tailor business under Peter Hawk there. He was elected sheriff of the county in 1872, and after his term continued in business at Sullivan till his death. He was a Presbyterian and a member of the Odd Fellows order.

On May 16, 1906, occurred the death of William Curry, one of the oldest citizens of the county, and almost a native son, having come to this county with Samuel Curry, his father, in 1822, when two years old, and for eighty-four years had been a resident of Curry township. In 1846 he



married Rebecca Russell. Joseph Wolfe Curry and Spencer Russell Curry are two of their four children.

The Calvert family settled at Carlisle shortly after the close of the war of 1812. They were Kentuckians, and John Calvert, who died October 26, 1883, was born in Springfield, Kentucky, September 16, 1807, and had lived in the county since he was nine years old. He married, February 26, 1830, Delilah Pitts, and had eleven children. The family were Methodists.

Thomas Martin Campbell, who died at his farm north of Sullivan, February 26, 1884, was born in Knox county, Ohio, March 17, 1820. He represented an old Presbyterian family, and had himself been a member of the church since he was twenty-one, and was an elder in the church at Sullivan at the time of his death.

George Carrithers, who died at Graysville, January 23, 1882, was a man of note not only because of his sixty-five years' residence in this vicinity, but for the character and strength that are naturally associated with the pioneer. "I do not remember," said Rev. J. H. Meteer, "to have met another man who had so supreme a contempt for idleness, and whole life so nearly conformed to his theory. . . . Those who were favored with his intimate acquaintance always gained by his counsel, whether in matters of business or religion." He was born in Kentucky, in May, 1800, came with the family to this state in 1817, at which time he and his brother went into the woods and cut and split 500 rails, with which they fenced ten acres of ground from which the family raised its first crops. At the age of 28 he married Jane Weir, and his death broke their wedlock of fifty-four years. Four children were left. He had united with the

Scaffold Prairie Presbyterian church in 1835, and the same year was chosen an elder of Hopewell church of Graysville.

Bennett Caffee, whose death occurred at Frankfort, Indiana, March 25, 1896, was at one time identified with the newspaper business of Sullivan, having come to Sullivan in 1868 as publisher of the *Democrat*. In 1862 he married Belinda Briggs, a daughter of Benjamin Briggs. He was sixty-five years old at the time of his death.

Joseph Click was born in Kentucky, March 10, 1817, and died February 27, 1894, having been a resident of Sullivan county since 1865. He became a member of Mt. Tabor Methodist church. He married Cynthia Hays, January, 1851, and had nine children.

Joseph Cunningham, who died suddenly August 1, 1893, had been for several years the efficient superintendent of the Sullivan County Agricultural Society, and shortly before his death had, with W. H. Crowder, erected the new mill at Sullivan. He had been held in high esteem by his fellow citizens, having been first nominated for public office in 1878, when he appeared on the National ticket for the office of sheriff. Though he failed of election that time, after running ahead of the rest of the ticket, he was nominated for the same office in 1880 and polled double the number of votes given to any other name on the ticket, though not enough to give him the office.

William E. Catlin will be remembered as one of the early merchants on the north side of the square at Sullivan. He established his store in 1850, and for many years carried a general stock of merchandise, dry-goods, groceries, and liquors. He was born in Washington county, Ken-

tucky, February 21, 1818, and died at his home in Sullivan May 31, 1906, leaving a son, William Francis. The family had come to Sullivan county during the early twenties, living a short distance north of Carlisle. William E. Catlin during his youth taught four years of school in the school-house that stood on his father's farm. When he first voted for a president, his ballot was cast for Martin Van Buren. He married, in 1838, Elizabeth H. Ridge.

The name Creager that is owned by numerous persons in this county was among the early names at the old town of Merom. One of the oldest of the family was William Creager, who died at Merom, March 30, 1868, and one of the last of the town's pioneers. He was a native of Kentucky, and for many years had been a justice of the peace at this locality.

June 12, 1878, William Combs, a county commissioner, then serving his second term, died in Cass township, where he had long been a resident. He was about sixty years old, was a successful farmer, was known for his strong practical sense and uprightness of dealings.

In the old Carlisle cemetery, in a small lot surrounded with an iron fence, stands a plain marble obelisk with a base on which are stated only these simple facts: "Hon. John W. Davis, born in New Holland, Lancaster county, Pa., April 16, 1799, died at Carlisle, Ind., August 22, 1859," together with the name of his wife, Ann Hoover Davis, who died December 28, 1859. To one who was unfamiliar with the early history of Sullivan county and of Indiana the monument tells only the mortal facts about a man who, in reality, for thirty years was prominent among the men who shaped the history of Indiana. He served in the legislature of the state six terms, and was three times speaker of the house; was sent

to Congress four times, and was the first of three Indiana men who served as speaker of the national house of representatives; was commissioner to China, governor of Oregon territory, and a judge of the probate court, besides many other connections with public and private life. In his reminiscences, Oliver H. Smith said of him, "few men in this or any other state have held so many prominent positions or discharged their duties with greater ability."

Of his family, none now live in Sullivan county, though a son is a resident of Greene county. An earlier generation would remember him as much for his services as a physician as in public life. He graduated from the University of Maryland as a physician in 1821, and two years later arrived at Carlisle with three cents in his pocket and a wife to support. For five years he practiced as a country doctor, part of the time being at Terre Haute. He entered politics in 1828, but was defeated for the state senate by William C. Linton. He became probate judge, and later was a successful candidate for the legislature. He tried for election as congressman in 1833, but John Ewing defeated him by two votes. Two years later he was successful against the same rival by a thousand votes. Persistency was the strongest element of his character, and through its exercise he accomplished many things that a less determined nature would not have attained. In 1841 his opponent was the noted Col. Dick Thompson of Terre Haute, who was elected. Immediately after his defeat, Dr. Davis successfully sought election to the state legislature, and was elected speaker of the house. Two subsequent terms he was sent to Congress, and during the twenty-ninth session was speaker of the house.

In 1847 President Polk appointed him commissioner to China, and on his return two years later he again went to the legislature and was chosen speaker. In 1852 Mr. Davis was chairman of the Democratic



national convention which met at Baltimore in June, 1852. Cass and Buchanan were the principal candidates for nomination, but the delegates were so divided that after thirty-five ballotings had been tried no candidate had sufficient support to make him the nominee. The convention adjourned at noon with the understanding that Virginia should bring in a compromise candidate. Franklin Pierce was the "dark horse" brought forward, but when the balloting was completed it was found that Pierce led Davis of Indiana by only one vote, though on the forty-ninth ballot the nomination was made practically unanimous for Pierce. President Pierce later appointed Dr. Davis governor of Oregon, and after this he was elected to the legislature of the state, "by the most flattering vote," he said, "I ever received from the good people of Sullivan county." His last public appointment was by the secretary of war as a member of the board of visitors to the West Point Military Academy, and he served as president of the board.

According to an estimate of his life published some time ago, Dr. Davis was a plain, substantial man, not of extraordinary mental calibre, but of good sound judgment, and unusually qualified as a presiding officer. "As a safe and prudent legislator," said W. W. Woolen of Indianapolis, "he was the equal of any man in the state in his day. Moreover, no one ever doubted his honesty. He kept his hands clean. With opportunities for money-making possessed by few, he contented himself with his legitimate earnings, and died a poor man." He was a Democrat in politics. While making a political address on one occasion, some one in the audience annoyed and interrupted by asking him regarding his advocacy of this and that Democratic measure. At length he said: "My friend, to save you trouble and me annoyance, I will say now that I endorse everything the Democratic party ever has done, and everything



that it ever will do." He was a large man, over six feet tall, with light hair, blue eyes and a florid complexion.

In the Palmer's prairie graveyard in Cass township is a slab marking the grave of Hon. James DePauw, who once represented this county in the legislature, and whose son, Washington C. DePauw, has perpetuated the name by his liberal gifts to the university which is now DePauw University. Harvey Wilson was authority for the statement that James DePauw made his canvass for the legislature in advocacy of a new tax law, was elected on that platform, and succeeded in having the law changed to conform to his theory. Previous to 1835 the public revenues were obtained from what were known as "specific taxes," i. e., so much tax was levied on every horse, so much for each yoke of oxen, so much for an acre of land, etc., and no distinctions were made between the objects of each classification on the basis of value. Mr. DePauw was the first man in this locality to advocate taxation on an *ad valorem* basis. The date usually assigned for the settlement of James DePauw in this county is 1832. He located at Caledonia, in the vicinity of the water-power mill on Busseron creek, and did a large business in flat-boating from that point, being one of the early pork dealers who shipped pork from this locality down the rivers to the southern market.

A daughter of James DePauw married John Y. Dodd, who was born in Kentucky in 1802 and died in this county, January 10, 1892, lacking about two months of attaining the venerable age of ninety years. After his marriage he began farming near Caledonia, where his father-in-law then conducted a general store and pork-packery, and was probably proprietor of the mill. Mr. Dodd was a man of considerable strength of character, warm in his attachments, and extremely firm in his convictions.

The older citizens of Gill township recall varied memories of William F. Dodds, who was postmaster at New Lebanon for thirty years, was a squire for a quarter of a century, and very well and favorably known in that community. He was born in Kentucky in 1809 and came to Bloomington, Indiana, when ten years old, and in 1830 located at New Lebanon, where he lived until his death in August, 1873. He was a member of the M. E. church thirty-seven years, and was buried with the ceremonies of the Odd Fellows order, having been a member of the Carlisle lodge twenty years.

One of the well known merchants of Sullivan was John Davis, whose death in 1891 removed one of the old citizens of the county. He was born near Vincennes, September 30, 1811, and had lived in Sullivan county since March, 1819.

John Dudley, who served as sheriff for two terms in the seventies, died in August, 1899, being at the time one of the oldest native sons, having been born in the county in 1824. His first wife was Anna Springer, of New Lebanon, and the second, Mary Jane Benefield, of Sullivan.

A family name that has been associated with Haddon township and Carlisle during early years was that of Dooley or Duly, as it was also spelled. There is a stone in the Carlisle cemetery, much defaced by age and weather, placed there "In memory of John Duly, who was born ———, and died February 18, 1837, aged (63?) years."

A more familiar personage, and one whose name appears on some of the early official documents to be found in the county, was Henry Dooley, presumably a son or relative of the above. He served as orderly

sergeant in Captain Briggs' company of volunteers for the Mexican war, and after his return was for six years sheriff of the county, and then a justice of the peace.

The Eaton family was established near Carlisle about 1813, perhaps a little later. William Eaton, who died near New Lebanon in July, 1873, was at that time about eighty years of age, a native of Fleming county, Kentucky. He served, so it was said, in the war of 1812, and probably located in this county during and soon after the close of that war. He married Mary Hunt in June, 1815, and in 1825 moved to New Lebanon. He had become a member of the M. E. church in 1817, and held the office of trustee and class leader at the time of his death.

Probably a brother of William Eaton was the old justice of the peace at Carlisle, John H. Eaton, who lies buried in the cemetery there. According to the inscription on his tombstone, he was born November 25, 1794, and died March, 1842. During the thirties he was a justice of the peace in Haddon township, and must have been a man of some prominence. He had the habit of writing the initial of his middle name so close to the E of the final name that it seemed one word, and to a stranger his name would seem to be John Heaton. It was so mistaken in several instances where his name occurred in print. It seems that the chiseler who cut his name on the tombstone was instructed to carry out this peculiarity, for at first glance the name on the stone seems to be Heaton.

The Ellis family, which is represented in the third generation by Claude A. Ellis of Carlisle, was of Virginia origin, the grandparents John W. and Sarah E. Ellis both being natives of that state and coming to this county some time in the '20s or early '30s. Thomas O. Ellis, a native son of the county and representing the second generation of the family

here, is a man of unusual historical interest because of his connection, while a young man during the fifties, with the Nicaragua filibuster under Captain Walker, which was one of the romantic episodes of American history.

William Ernest, who died at his home in Fairbanks, August 29, 1882, had lived in this state since 1827, and joined the Baptist church in Fairbanks in 1834. He was born in North Carolina in 1804, and came to this state with his parents.

Alexander Engle, who died December 16, 1904, was for many years a local preacher of the Christian church, having united with that denomination in 1861. He was born in Sullivan county, October 20, 1826, and in 1849 married Patsy Rose.

Alonzo F. Estabrook was for many years surveyor of the county. He was born in Reading, Windsor county, Vermont, March 7, 1814, and came west during the construction of Wabash and Erie Canal, being one of the surveyors connected with that enterprise. He studied medicine and practiced for a year but later resumed surveying, and for a long time resided at Carlisle. He died at the home of a son near Gordon, Nebraska, April 3, 1892. At the time of his death his son J. Alonzo was living near Carlisle.

Dr. William A. Fleming practiced a quarter of a century at Pleasantville before his death, which occurred July 10, 1892. Dropsy was the cause of his death. He was born in Jefferson county, Ohio, in 1841, read medicine there until this was interrupted by service in the army, being connected with the hospital service part of the time, and after the



war continued his studies in the medical department of the University of Michigan, coming to Pleasantville in the summer of 1866. For fourteen years he was the partner of Dr. James McDowell, later with Dr. McClung, and then with Dr. L. C. McDowell.

One of the veterans of the Mexican war, who was also in the Civil war, was Col. James H. Garrett, who lived at Carlisle a number of years, but who died at Newton, Iowa, January 30, 1877, being fifty-two years of age at the time of his death.

The Giles family was located in the vicinity of Merom about 1830. At least one member of the family, John Giles, was engaged in the flat-boat commerce to New Orleans, and was later a merchant and county treasurer, and president of the Farmers State Bank of Sullivan. Hugh H. Giles, a native of New Jersey, was the original immigrant to this county, coming here in 1830. Hopkins Giles died in Gill township August 3, 1867, aged 71. John Giles died in November, 1894.

Robert A. Gilkison and wife, natives of Kentucky, came to Sullivan county in 1816, not long after the close of the war of 1812. For a number of years their home was on the prairie near Carlisle, but they spent their last years on the Gilkison farm a mile and a half west of Sullivan.

John Gilkison (or Gilkerson), who was born in Fleming county, Kentucky, in 1815, and died at his home in Sullivan, July 25, 1899, was a year old when brought to this county. For many years he lived on a fine farm along the Merom road a short distance from Sullivan. He married, in 1839, Mary A. Canary, who died in 1879, and in 1882 he married Mrs. Sarah Ann Freeman.



A well known and honored citizen passed away on February 6, 1893, in the death of William H. Griffin. He was seventy-seven years old, and many years before had located at Fairbanks, where he was a saddle manufacturer. He entered local politics, was one of the county commissioners during the war, having been elected from the second district in 1862, and in 1866 was county treasurer and re-elected to that office in 1868. He was a Mason and Odd Fellow.

Messages of condolence from Senator D. W. Voorhees and Col. W. E. McLean of Terre Haute read at the funeral of Major William C. Griffith, who died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Zerilda Reed, in Sullivan, February 5, 1892, showed the high estimate placed upon that worthy soldier and citizen who for more than half a century had been a resident of Sullivan. He was ninety-four years old at the time of his death. His father was one of seven brothers who came to Pennsylvania from Wales and all served in the Revolutionary war, and about 1816 moved to Kentucky. In 1817 William C. Griffith married Fannie McGrew, and fifty years later they celebrated their golden anniversary, their wedded life continuing three years longer. During the latter part of the war of 1812 he recruited a company of volunteers and was chosen major of the regiment to which it was attached. He was one of the last, if not the last, survivor of that war in Sullivan county. He had been a member of the Baptist church since 1823. He was clerk of the Sullivan circuit court four years.

Some of the older residents will recall the old Irishman, Robert Griffith, who was the town tailor of Merom for about thirty years, until his death at that place, December 12, 1875. He was at one time an official of the county, and at a very interesting period, when the county seat was removed from the bluffs of the Wabash to a more central location at

Sullivan. Some time before he had been appointed by the county commissioners to the office of treasurer and collector, and was later elected to that office, and held that office when the county seat moved to Sullivan. He was a native of Belfast, Ireland, learned the tailor's trade, and had worked at Natchez, Mississippi, before coming to Sullivan county.

One of the old teachers of the county who will be readily recalled by many, especially in Jackson township, where he lived many years, was Peter Grant. He was a graduate of the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, and after coming to this county about 1855 was engaged in teaching for about twenty years. He died May 16, 1884, aged seventy-six. He was one of the original members of Claiborne Presbyterian church.

The carpenter and contractor who remodeled the court house was William Greenlee, a citizen who was well known in Sullivan up to the time of his death, August 11, 1896. He had lived in Sullivan since 1851. He is also credited with having built one of the schoolhouses of Sullivan. He was born in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, April 5, 1821.

For seventeen years the postoffice at Carlisle was held by David Hackney, who died there about May 1, 1878, at the age of seventy. As a citizen he had for many years been a leader in promoting temperance and other moral reforms in his community.

A native of old Shakertown who passed most of his life in this county in the vicinity of Carlisle was Isacher Hancock, who was born February 7, 1808, and died September 19, 1877.

Owen C. Hancock, who was sheriff of the county during the seventies, had just completed one term in that office and was on the ticket for

a second term when he died, September 6, 1876. He was born in Owen county in 1830. He had six children.

Joel Harris, who was born January 17, 1818, was said to have been the first white child born in Fairbanks township. He died July 11, 1890. He was an enterprising farmer, and had the distinction of raising the first large acreage of wheat in his township. His first wife was Lydia Ransford, by whom he had five children.

James Heap, one of the most honored citizens of Curry township, died August 4, 1892, and was buried at Friendship church. His wife was Sarah J. Davis, and they had seven children.

John Hammond, who died August 10, 1899, was born in Kentucky October, 1816, and at the age of sixteen began working on the Ohio river as steamboat engineer, an occupation he followed until 1854, when he moved to Sullivan county. For several years he was an engineer in the Seth Cushman grist mill at Merom. After the beginning of the war he enlisted in Company I, Sixth Indiana Cavalry, and was made veterinary of the company. During his residence in the county after the war he was employed as engineer in some of the flour mills at Sullivan. In 1842 he married Nancy Pinkston, by whom he had eight children, and in 1858 married Louisa J. Kelly.

The late William Hosea Hawkins, who died in October, 1905, served as sheriff of the county from 1888 to 1892, and then under the Cleveland administration was appointed a United States marshal, a position he held during the trying months of the strike of the American Railway Union. When an injunction was issued against interfering with the trains at

Hammond, he was ordered to serve the order of the court. The Monon placed a special train at his disposal. The news of the coming of Hawkins and his deputies preceded and created the rumor that a train-load of soldiers was approaching the town. A crowd of five thousand gathered at the depot, in an ugly mood, but on the arrival of the train Hawkins quietly left his car, read the order of the court in the presence of the strikers and their sympathizers, and two days later brought the strike leaders back to Indianapolis. Marshal Hawkins was the only son of Jesse Hawkins, a well-to-do farmer of near Graysville, and during his youth had been a clerk in a general store at Shelburn. During his later years he became prominent in the Democratic politics of the state. He resigned the position of secretary of the county central committee to accept a similar position with the state central committee, which he held four years. In business he was district superintendent of the Prudential Insurance Company, with headquarters at Terre Haute, until about a year before his death, when he became superintendent of the American Association, with headquarters at Indianapolis.

Philip Hinkle settled in the southeast corner of Sullivan county in 1819, coming from Kentucky. He lived there at a time when it was necessary to take corn to Shakertown to have it ground. The Hinkle family, of which Philip was the first immigrant to this county, have been well known and numerous represented since that time.

Nathan Hinkle was a Revolutionary soldier who spent his last years in Sullivan county. Some of the gray-headed men of the present century, who were boys sixty years ago, remember an old resident of Jackson township, who had been voting ever since the beginning of our national government, and who until his extreme age took a keen interest in elec-



tions and was assisted to the ballot box. When he died near Hymera in December, 1848, he lacked only half a year of having completed a century of life. He was born in Pennsylvania, and early in 1776 enlisted in the colonial militia at Lancaster, and for three years served in the continental army. In 1832, while living in Lawrence county, Indiana, he applied for and received a pension for his army services. He lived in Kentucky before coming to this state, and in 1844 moved to Jackson township, this county, where he made his home for a time with Uncle Martin Hale.

Jackson Hinkle, who died a few years ago, nearly ninety years old, was a member of the Hinkle family first mentioned above. He was born in Kentucky and came to this county with his parents when five years old, in 1819. He lived at first near Pleasantville and later moved to Farmersburg in order to educate his children. He was a merchant there, and was also appointed postmaster during the administration of President Grant. He also practiced as a pension attorney at Washington. He married, in 1856, Eliza J. Alkire, who died in 1892, the mother of nine children.

Stephen Hiatt died at Sullivan, November 27, 1907. He was a native of the county, and in 1860 married Miss America Laycock of Carlisle. Five of their children survived his death. He entered the army in August, 1862, in Company F, Ninety-first Illinois Infantry, and was wounded at Sabine Crossroads with eleven balls. He was captured by Morgan at Elizabeth, Kentucky, and after being released from the hospital he was detailed to the body-guard of President Lincoln. He was discharged in May, 1865, at Madison, Indiana.

John Higbee, who represented this county in the legislature by elections in 1892 and 1894, died at his home north of Sullivan, January 9,



1902. He was a son of John L. Higbee, of Sullivan, and was born in Hamilton county, Ohio, in 1843. He married Miss Mary Turman of Turman township, daughter of Thomas Turman, February 20, 1864, and they were parents of eight children.

Thomas Allen Hughes, who died in 1903, was born December 13, 1820, in a house that stood just southwest of the site of Sullivan, and which is now included in the town limits. He served as deputy auditor after the removal of the county seat from Merom, probably the first to hold that position. He was a member of the Home Guards during the war, being one of the influential Union men of this section, and in the latter part of the war enlisted in the 149th Regiment. He took part in some of the last marches of the army in the south, and the exposure and hardship permanently impaired his health. He was one of the earliest members of the Methodist church at Sullivan, having joined the church at the age of sixteen, and he helped build the first church, a frame building that stood on the site of the present church.

One of the old residents in the New Lebanon vicinity, a member of the Methodist church there and an ardent Democrat ever since he had cast his first vote for Jackson, was John R. Hunt, who died at his home there August 15, 1877. He was a son of Meshack Hunt and a native of Kentucky, born in 1802, and had lived in the county about fifty years. He married Hannah Davidson and had nine children.

David Hutchinson, who died at Sullivan, January 31, 1892, was one of the original members of the Presbyterian church of this place, and had served as elder. He had come to the county in the early fifties, and later moved to Sullivan to take charge of the mill built by M. E. Chase.

Venerable Squire Joel Hendricks, who died at his home in Farmersburg, where he had long resided, in January, 1892, was one of the well-known characters of that vicinity. He had been a justice many years, and was said to have possessed the confidence and esteem of the people to an unusual degree.

Among the pioneer families that came to Sullivan county before 1840, at least one that has since been prominent, brought to the county's citizenship some of the excellent qualities of the Pennsylvania Dutch. The Hoke family has been prominent as farmers and business men in Sullivan county for the greater part of seventy years, since Jacob F. and Susanna (Brentlinger) Hoke settled here some time in the thirties. They were of Pennsylvania nativity, but they followed the general tendency of emigrants to this county, and lived for a time in Kentucky before moving to this county.

Jacob Hoke was born in Jefferson county, Kentucky, June 30, 1809, and died January 25, 1875, on the farm in Haddon township where he had settled in 1830. He was a man of considerable wealth, and at one time was a county commissioner. He had been converted in a Methodist revival in 1839, and was connected with that church the rest of his life.

Among the various family claims to priority in Sullivan county, it is asserted that Thomas Holder, Sr., built the first cabin put up by a white man north of Knox county and that he located in the vicinity that afterward became Haddon township before the Ledgerwood family, though the latter is usually given precedence in the settlement of the county about Carlisle. At any rate, Thomas Holder came to this vicinity several years before the Tippecanoe campaign and the war of 1812, and was a soldier in those hostilities under General Harrison. One of the block-houses in

the vicinity of Carlisle was usually designated by the Holder family name, and there is no doubt that Thomas Holder deserves the prominence that is due one of the first men who braved the hardships and dangers of life on the edge of civilization. The Holders were from Virginia, thus adding another name to the notable list of the pioneer citizens furnished this county by the south. The pioneer had a large family, one of them being Thomas, Jr., who was born in Haddon township in 1828, and whose associations with the farming and civil activities of this township are well remembered facts of the past century.

The founder of the Jamison family near Sullivan, and the father of James and William Jamison, was Matthew Jamison, who died at Sullivan in August, 1883, at the age of seventy. He was a native of Fayette county, Ohio, and had lived in this county since 1875.

South Carolina was the state which gave to Sullivan county the pioneer Jenkins family. Thomas and Nancy (Gill) Jenkins left Chester county, South Carolina, in 1807, and the former died during the long journey to the territory of Indiana, but his widow continued on to what became later Sullivan county and joined the Shaker community, being identified with that sect the rest of her life. The son, John Jenkins, who was born in South Carolina the year before the family migration, was at the time of his death one of the oldest residents of Sullivan county, and one of the largest farmers of the Carlisle neighborhood.

James L. Johnson, who died in April, 1882, at Sullivan, where he had lived for the past ten years, became a member of the Hopewell church at Graysville in 1827, and was one of the oldest of that pioneer congregation. He was born in Tennessee January 1, 1800, and came to

Indiana during territorial days, living first in Knox county and later moving to the vicinity of Graysville.

One of the early settlers of Jackson township was Wyatt Johnson, who died at his home near the Greene county line, July 14, 1878, having come to the township nearly a half a century before.

Robert Kirkham, who died October 5, 1879, at the age of 82, had lived in this county since 1832. He was a native of Nelson county, Kentucky.

One of the veterans of the war of 1812 who afterwards lived in Sullivan county was James Land, who died at his home near Carlisle, July 24, 1866. As a Kentucky volunteer he had seen hard service in Harrison's army, and was under the gallant Dudley at the capture of Fort Meigs by the British. He was born in Jessamine county, Kentucky, October 14, 1792, and settled near Carlisle in 1821.

Jacob N. Land was a native and almost lifelong citizen of Carlisle, a member of one of the old families, and his life history is strongly pervaded with the military activity which has been characteristic of the family. He was born three miles northeast of Carlisle, December 25, 1838, and died at Battle Creek, Michigan, July 26, 1899. He was educated at Carlisle, and enlisting as a private in the 59th Infantry served from the first year of the war until 1865, being promoted to first sergeant. He was in the drug business at Carlisle, 1870-72, and then studied law and was admitted to the bar, and being appointed justice of the peace was for more than twenty years Squire Land. He was a charter member of the George Rotramel Post, G. A. R., and was its



commander at the time of his death. He married in 1868 Mrs. Sarah J. Milner, and they had six children.

Peter Lisman, of the well-known family of that name, was a soldier in the war of 1812, and had fought at the battle of Tippecanoe. He died in July, 1867, at the age of eighty-one. He had been a member of the Methodist church over forty-five years.

The death of John Lisman, at the home of his son in New Lebanon, July 8, 1906, removed a native of the county whose name and the circumstances of his early career connected him intimately with some of the best remembered traditions of early Sullivan county. He was born on the Lisman homestead one mile southeast of Carlisle, November 19, 1814, and it is claimed that he was the fifth white child born in the county. When he was only three or four months old occurred what has since been known as the Dudley Mack massacre. On that day the parents of the Lisman baby were busy making maple sugar, and had put the boy in comfortable yet secret quarters in a hollow tree. When the word came that the Indians had massacred two boys, the mother left her baby concealed in the tree until she had roused her immediate neighbors, and the Lisman block-house was crowded until the fear and excitement passed over the frontier settlement. Having begun his life in such frontier scenes, it was the lot of John Lisman to live through all the remarkable epochs of development during the last century, and in many ways his life was a link between the period of first things in Sullivan county down to the twentieth century. He married in 1838 Elizabeth Johnson, who was born in the county a few weeks earlier than he, and was the fourth white child born in the county.

Hugh Moore, who died at Sullivan June 24, 1901, was considered the pioneer in the development of the coal fields of this county. He was born in Northumberland county, England, in May, 1825, and migrated to the United States in 1852. He was a practical miner through wide and extended experience, and after he came to Sullivan county in 1866 he was identified with several of the important mining properties of the county. In 1870 he became a member of the Shelburn Coal Company and had charge of the sinking of the shaft at that point. He was superintendent of the Sullivan mine until it was abandoned in 1879. The daughters who survived him were Mrs. Charles P. Walker, Mrs. William Wilson, and Mrs. James Hargraves.

One of the active workers for temperance during the seventies was William C. McBride, who died at Sullivan March 11, 1882. A few years before he had served as a justice of the peace, and had also been a preacher in the Christian church.

Hugh McCammon, of near Carlisle, was a veteran of two wars. He was one of the Kentucky volunteers who followed General Hopkins in the campaign against the Indians during the war of 1812, and over thirty years later had been a private in Captain Briggs' company in the Mexican war. He was a native of Hickman county, Kentucky, and came to Sullivan county about 1817. He died at his residence near Carlisle January 17, 1863.

Mathew McCammon, of the same family, and prominent in politics, who died April 26, 1876, was born on a farm south of Sullivan in 1820. He had been elected to the office of sheriff in 1860 and 1862, and in 1872 was again the Democratic nominee for the same office, but was defeated.

William McCammon, who died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Cora Gilbert, October 1, 1903, was the thirteenth of the fourteen children born to William McCammon and Jemima St. Clair. He was born six miles south of Sullivan, March 1, 1841. With the exception of five years spent in Terre Haute his life was passed in Sullivan, where he was a successful business man. In 1881 he built the McCammon Hotel, in which his funeral was held. He married in 1864 Rose D. Pearce.

For two terms the office of county treasurer was filled by Abram McClellan, a well-known citizen of Gill township, whose death was recorded in January, 1890, at the age of about 65. After two terms as trustee of Gill township he was elected to the office of county treasurer in 1875 and again in 1877, and later was again township trustee and also a justice of the peace. He was a member of the Christian church.

Thomas F. Mackey, who died October 30, 1889, is best remembered for his activity in church work and also for his interest in local politics in behalf of the laboring men. He had been a member of the Methodist church since 1849, for many years was an official member, and was earnest in Sunday school affairs.

James A. Marlow, who was elected the first superintendent of schools in Sullivan county, met accidental death in July, 1896, being struck by an engine of a passenger-train at Shelbyville. He was a native of Sullivan county and about fifty-two years of age. Since leaving the office of superintendent he had been traveling agent for a school book publishing house.

The Kentucky family named Mann, which had several well-known representatives at different periods of history, was established in this

county in 1819, their homestead being near Merom. A former circuit clerk and prominent Democrat in the county was the late Thomas J. Mann of this family, a grandson of the original immigrant. The grandfather "Judge" Mann, was a prominent citizen of Merom, in and prior to the forties. One daughter became the wife of the Hon. Henry K. Wilson and one married O'Boyce, one of the prominent merchants of that place, who subsequently moved to Terre Haute and engaged in the wholesale business. "Mann's Tavern," which was on the stage line between Terre Haute and Vincennes, and gave entertainment to "man and beast," was a noted hostelry and often entertained many men of note such as Gen. Harrison, "Dick" Johnson, Lewis Cass and others equally well known.

A pioneer family who have been in the county since the time of the war of 1812 and before the county was organized was represented by John Maxwell, who died July 27, 1882. He was born in Bourbon county, Kentucky, January 30, 1803, and came with his father to Wayne county, Indiana, in 1806, and thence to Sullivan county about the close of the war of 1812. From the south part of the county the family moved to the vicinity of Caledonia in 1820. There they began the erection of the usual pioneer dwelling, a log cabin. When the timbers were ready for the "raising" the son John was sent out to invite the neighbors, and in order to get a sufficient force it was necessary for him to visit every home on Curry's prairie. The family tradition is to the effect that at that time there was not a white man's cabin from the eastern edge of Sullivan county to the White river. John Maxwell married Polly Polk, September 11, 1823, and the following year settled one mile south of his father's home. His first wife died in 1844, and he then married Mary M.



Larimore. For more than sixty years he was a worker in the Christian church.

In Kentucky was born Thomas R. McKinney in 1803. The family migration to the north side of the Ohio river was made in 1815, and since 1829 the McKinney family has been identified with Sullivan county, through the residence of Thomas R. or some of his sons.

Elder Thomas R. McKinney gave many years of his active life to the work of the Little Flock church in Curry township, with the history of which his name should be associated. His parents were Presbyterians, and he was reared in that faith, but in 1834 changed his views on the subject of baptism and united with the Little Flock congregation. Being soon after ordained a minister of the gospel, he served as pastor and moderator of the Little Flock church until 1866. In that year he moved from Curry's prairie to Haddon township, and from that time was identified with the membership of the Sullivan church. He died at his residence near Paxton, April 12, 1877. His wife was Jane McGrew.

Another prominent family whose residence was in Kentucky prior to the settlement in Sullivan county was the Milams. Henry R. Milam is one of the conspicuous and aged representatives of this family still living in Gill township. Several heads of families bearing that name came from Kentucky to the vicinity of Carlisle about the close of the war of 1812-15, and the family relationship has always been large in the county.

With a knowledge of the conditions of a century ago, the limitations of travel and the meagerness of information about distant localities,

and the practical absence of all the facilities which now make communication with all parts of the country both easy and rapid, it seems nothing less than remarkable that men living in the old world and the settled states of the east should assume the risks and hardships of an emigration to the interior of America, there to found homes and spread the civilization of an older order. That a family should remove from the British Isles, during the first decade of the past century, and establish itself in the territory of Indiana, under the protection of the block-house communities of the Wabash valley, co-operating with others in producing the comforts of civilization and in sharing in its prosperity, is a matter worthy of particular note in a history of Sullivan county. Such is the record of the McConnel family, which has lived in Sullivan county for more than a century, and has several well-known citizens of that name in the county at the present time. A Scotchman of the name brought his family to America in 1805, and a year or so after reaching the eastern states had found his way to the new country of the Wabash. Andrew McConnel, a son of this immigrant, was a boy here during the exciting years of the war of 1812, and his son, Bailey McConnel, is still one of the prominent citizens of Haddon township.

The Minich family of Haddon township in its earlier generations had a home in Virginia, and still further back was of German origin. The Virginia ancestor, Adam Minich, was born about 1791, and served in the war of 1812, presumably while still a resident of Virginia. After that he went across the mountains into Tennessee, and from there came to Haddon township in 1819 and entered government land. Amid the changes incident to modern American life and the restlessness that characterizes most men, it is pleasant to remark that this farm has never passed out of the possession of the Minichs from the day it was entered

in the government land office, and is still the home of a son of the original pioneer, Pleasant A. Minich, who was born on this place over eighty-five years ago.

Nathan Miles, who died at his home in Sullivan, September 8, 1878, aged about 70, was born near Lexington, Kentucky, and had lived since an early age near New Lebanon.

Col. William Minter, who was killed by a runaway team March 15, 1882, was perhaps the only permanent resident of Sullivan county who participated in the war for Texas independence. When about eighteen years old, in 1836, he had been attracted to the Texas country and had enlisted in the army raised to repel the invading Santa Ana, being in the battle of San Jacinto, which brought independence. He soon after returned to his old home in Shelby county, Kentucky, and in 1840 moved to Sullivan county. Here he took part in another phase of pioneer life. During the period before the coming of the railroads he was one of the carriers who took the mail at Merom and conveyed it on to Terre Haute. He married Malinda Pinkston in 1845, and after a brief residence in Missouri settled near Merom, where he continued to reside until his death. He was noted for his courtesy and hospitality, though his quiet and unobtrusive manner did not often permit him to mingle in public affairs.

On July 5, 1864, Lieut.-Col. Frank Neff was buried in the Sullivan cemetery with military honors, some of the veterans and returned volunteers forming a squad to accompany the body to its last resting place in the Sullivan cemetery. Colonel Neff was born in Boyle county, Kentucky, in 1832, his parents soon after moving to Hendricks county, this

state, and he received his education at Bloomington, graduating from the law school of Judge McDonald and later entering a law office in Danville. After his marriage he located in Sullivan, and was among the first volunteers after the firing on Fort Sumter. From the office of lieutenant he had filled the intermediate grades in his advancement to the rank of lieutenant colonel, and served with gallantry at Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Stone River, Chickamauga, and at Kenesaw Mountain, where he received his death wound.

John Osborn was born in Kentucky in 1789, and came to Sullivan county in 1826, living here till his death in 1851. His wife, *née* Gardner, was also born in Kentucky.

“Uncle Billy” Owens, who died at his home in Turman township, February 25, 1903, was a citizen whose life span had covered nearly ninety-four years, and since 1837 had been a resident of Turman township. When a boy he worked in a butcher shop patronized by President Andrew Jackson, and this acquaintance with that rugged champion of democracy made him one of the most ardent supporters whom “Old Hickory” could claim. In 1843 Uncle Billy hauled lumber for the first house in Sullivan. He was twice married and leaves numerous descendants.

Col. Ed Price was a former county official, and a native of the county, born at Merom in 1833, and died at his home in Sullivan, June 7, 1893. As a boy he worked in the store of James Reed at Merom, and during his later employment in the dry-goods store of William Wilson at Sullivan he gained an acquaintance and popularity that made his candidacy in 1858 for the office of county treasurer very successful, and two



years later he was re-elected. In 1865 he was elected clerk of the circuit court, and he made H. K. Wilson his deputy and turned his attention to merchandising. His business enterprise was not successful, and he later held a position in the state auditor's office under James H. Rice.

James Harvey Reed, who at one time held the office of county recorder, and later was known about the court house as deputy auditor, died in January, 1873, then fifty-five years old. Between terms of office he was a farmer in Fairbanks township. He was a member of the Little Flock Baptist church.

A numerous family of this county, dating from pioneer times, are the Ridgeways. One branch of the family, of which Levi was the settler, came from Kentucky to the Ledgerwood neighborhood not long after the war of 1812. Levi had served in the New Orleans campaign under Captain Peacock, whose daughter he later married, and then came to Sullivan county.

James Thomas Reid, who was a druggist at Sullivan in partnership with Dr. Hinkle during the fifties, died at Denver, Colorado, July 25, 1899. He was born in Jefferson township in 1842. After leaving the retail drug business, he was a traveling salesman a number of years, but in 1875 returned to Sullivan and engaged in the grocery and milling business. During the Civil war he served as a member of the 85th Indiana. He was a Mason and a member of the Methodist church. He married Miss Sue Lyons in 1866.

One of the soldiers who came to Indiana at the beginning of the war of 1812 and later effected settlement in Sullivan county was Hezekiah Riggs, whose grandson, William Riggs, is now a resident of Fairbanks

township. A native of Virginia, he settled at Carlisle when he left the army, and about 1815 married Lydia Ingle, whose parents, it is said, became residents of this part of Indiana about 1803.

Commodore P. Riggs, who died December 3, 1891, was a former incumbent of the office of county treasurer, having been elected to that office in 1878 by about a thousand majority, and in 1880 was re-elected by an even increased majority. He was a native of Fairbanks township, and after his marriage lived for many years near Shelburn, being a member of the M. E. church.

The late Thomas L. Roberts, who died at his home on North Section street, Sullivan, April 14, 1901, came to Sullivan in 1866, being at the time in the employ of the E. & T. H. Railroad. He is remembered for his genial temperament and his interest in sciences and literature, and was a man of broad acquaintances. He was eighty-five years old when he died, and was born at Battletown, near Hastings, England, and was brought to America when eight years old. He spent his youth in New York, but in 1836 became an engineer on the Madison and Indianapolis Railroad, the first railroad line in the state. He knew personally Gen. William Henry Harrison, Henry Clay, Zachary Taylor and other noted men of the time, also the poet O'Hara, who wrote the "Bivouac of the Dead." He was a member of the Methodist church. He was twice married. His eldest daughter became the mother of Senator Beveridge's first wife, and among the other children William B. was private secretary of several Indiana governors and of Senator Beveridge.

Charles Scott, who was born on a farm south of New Lebanon, November 20, 1823, and died at Sullivan, May 9, 1908, was an early mer-

chant of Sullivan and for several terms county commissioner. He was a school teacher during his youth, and after coming to Sullivan in 1857 by industry and thrift accumulated enough to enter the clothing and mercantile business with James Hinkle. In 1867 he sold out and moved to a farm. He voted for Polk in 1844, and was elected and served as county commissioner three terms, 1874-77, 1886-92. His first wife was Mary J. Ryerson and his second Mary J. Carrithers.

The Sherman family came from North Carolina to Sullivan county in 1816. Samuel and Elizabeth (Lewis) Sherman lived in the county over thirty years, and left a number of descendants. Thomas K. Sherman, a son, was formerly a banker at Sullivan and a well-known business man. He was born seven miles southwest of Sullivan, September 26, 1829, and when twenty years old began teaching, farming and other occupations, and later went into the dry-goods business at Sullivan. He was both president and cashier of the Sullivan National Bank, and was also incumbent of several county offices. His first wife was Sarah Elizabeth Jewell, and his second, Amanda J. DeBaun. He died in 1903.

C. B. Shepard was one of the county commissioners during the war. He was born on Shaker prairie March 12, 1819, and died June 29, 1883. He was an active figure in the politics of the county for many years.

William McKendree Springer, who died at Washington in 1903, was one of the native sons of Sullivan county who became prominent in the nation. He was a member of the well-known family of the name in Gill township, where he was born May 30, 1836, moved to Jacksonville, Illinois, in 1848, but returned to Indiana to complete his education in the State University, from which he was graduated in 1858. He was a

member of the Illinois constitutional convention in 1870, and was a member of the lower house of the legislature in 1872. He was elected to Congress from the Springfield district in 1874, and served in the 44th to 53d Congresses. He is credited with having led the fight against the McKinley tariff, which resulted in Cleveland's second election. He was one of the most active leaders in the long movement for the organization of the Indian Territory and the opening of Oklahoma. After his last term in Congress he served a while as judge of the United States court for Indian Territory, and then practiced law in Washington until his death.

Nathan Thomas, who died April 20, 1905, was for twenty years county surveyor, and in that capacity had laid off a large portion of the town of Sullivan. He was born near Connersville, Indiana, December 25, 1820, and for a number of years taught school, being a teacher in this county after he moved here about 1852. He was also a farmer, but the last ten years of his life were spent in Sullivan. He married Anna Moore. Mrs. J. M. Lang, Mrs. A. B. Stansil and Dr. Anna T. Sheridan are his daughters.

One of the prominent men in the affairs of Sullivan, whose name often appears in connection with the enterprises of half a century ago, was Lafayette Stewart, who died at Sullivan, February 29, 1884. He was born in Floyd county, Indiana, in 1826, and after coming to this county followed the business of cabinetmaker, later was a merchant. He was not active in local politics beyond holding the office of township trustee. The editor of the *Democrat* referred to him as a man of strong convictions and very earnest in his advocacy of them, and yet very courteous in all his intercourse with men of variety of opinion. For many years he was



a deacon in the Presbyterian church, and was long master of the local Masonic lodge.

Thomas Turman, who was the leading representative of the family of that name in this county during the first half of the last century, was born in Virginia in 1796 and came to Indiana territory with his father Benjamin in 1810. During the thirties he served in the Black Hawk war. He built two mills in his community in Turman township, using the waters of Turman creek, and these were of great benefit to the people of that vicinity if they were not to the proprietor. He was elected and served in the legislature in 1843-44. He died at his residence in Turman township, June 30, 1863.

Wilbur Van Fossen, who was captain of Company C, 59th Indiana Infantry, during the Civil war, and was the first commander of the Frank Neff Post, G. A. R., died at his home three miles west of Carlisle, November 21, 1899.

Frederick Wilkey, who died at his residence five miles west of Sullivan, July 8, 1880, was one of the organizers of the old Methodist society known as Mt. Tabor, and the church was built on the southwest corner of his farm. He was born in Clark county, Indiana, October 18, 1819, and came to Sullivan county in 1837, with his step-father Kelley, who located and gave the name to Kelley's Landing. Mr. Wilkey joined the Methodist church soon after coming to this county.

George W. Walker, founder of a well-known family of Haddon township, was originally from North Carolina, accompanied the family migration to Tennessee, and after a brief residence in Kentucky he came

to Sullivan county in 1826. He died at his home east of Carlisle, January 26, 1882, when past 87 years of age. He had been drafted for service in the war of 1812. His first wife was Elizabeth Cook, and his second, Rhoda Blevins.

Tennessee was also an intermediate home for the Wheeler family, between the date of its residence in the east and its final permanent location in Sullivan county. Hugh Wheeler was born in Tennessee at the beginning of the century, moved to Clark county, Indiana, in 1824, and six years later established the family home in Sullivan county.

Peter Wilson during his youth left his native state of Virginia, crossing the mountain barrier into Tennessee, where he lived long enough to marry and start a family, and in 1828 came to Sullivan county with his brothers, John, Adam and George. Peter Wilson was the son of a Revolutionary soldier, himself served in the war of 1812, and members of the family have served in every important war of the nation. The Wilsons are still well represented in the citizenship of this county.

Henry K. Wilson occupied a place of varied and great usefulness in the early affairs of Sullivan county, and his death on November 1, 1882, was marked as the passing of one of the eminent citizens. He was born in eastern Tennessee, January 12, 1815, and being without educational opportunities he learned to cipher on thin pieces of slate picked up on the mountainside. The family came to Indiana in 1831. In 1834 his father took him to Merom and made arrangements with Benjamin Wolfe, then county clerk, that the boy should find a place in the office as deputy. His capabilities were such that on the expiration of Mr. Wolfe's term it was suggested on the day of election that the deputy should be given

the office, and almost enough votes were cast to elect him, although he was not yet of age. When the county seat was moved to Sullivan, Mr. Wilson was appointed to the vacancy in the clerk's office. He was clerk of the circuit court when the court house and its records burned in February, 1850. So accurate was his memory of persons who had annually paid interest to the school fund that he was enabled to notify all borrowers, and the school fund suffered no loss. In 1855 he was auditor. His strict economy and integrity in all public offices were notable. He served twice in the state senate, and though he never tried to make a speech he was an excellent worker in committee. In 1842 he married Mary E. Mann, daughter of Judge Mann of Merom. His second wife was Mrs. Sallie J. Pogue. One of his sons was a graduate of the naval academy and served in the navy.

The late John Harvey Wilson, whose death January 18, 1904, removed one of the oldest residents of the county and also one of the finest types of its citizenship, was born near Greenville, Tennessee, January 27, 1811, the oldest child of Adam and Margaret Wilson. Both his grandfathers served in the Revolutionary war. The family came to Sullivan county in 1832, settling at first near Carlisle and later in Cass township. Harvey Wilson assisted in laying out the town of Sullivan. He was a teacher in one of the early log school houses of the county. He had attained his majority before leaving Tennessee, and it was the custom in the family that that event be celebrated by the father presenting the grown son a suit of clothes. The suit given to John Harvey was made by a poor tailor of Greenville, named Andrew Johnson, later president of the United States. This is the current version of the story, but it is probable that the suit was tailored before Wilson reached his majority, since Andrew Johnson was by that time well advanced in his political

career. In 1832 Harvey Wilson cast his first vote for Andrew Jackson. In 1840 he was elected sheriff of Sullivan county, and during his two terms of office the county seat was moved to Sullivan. In 1845 and 1850 he represented the county in the legislature. He was a Mason for forty years, and for about an equal period was an elder in the Presbyterian church. He married, November 25, 1862, Mrs. Dorcas Lyons Patton.

On January 22, 1892, death removed John Willis, at the age of sixty-eight. A highly respected and prosperous citizen, he lived for many years on a farm north of Sullivan, and for several years before his death had resided in Sullivan.

Benjamin Wolfe, who died at his home on Shaker prairie, December 6, 1868, was one of the oldest citizens of the county and had been identified with official affairs while the county seat was on the bluffs of the Wabash at Merom. He came to Sullivan county in 1819, was elected clerk of the court in 1830, was postmaster at Merom in 1831, was again elected clerk in 1837, and resigned that office when the county seat was moved to Sullivan. In 1846 he was elected to the legislature and served three terms in succession, and was also a member of the constitutional convention of 1851-52. In 1865 he was again chosen to the legislature. He was a man of untiring energy and succeeded in accumulating a large estate.

He was born in Culpeper county, Virginia, April 18, 1799, the son of a shoemaker. His father was not a good financier, and, the family being large, Benjamin assumed responsibilities beyond his years and at ten years of age was working to keep the family from poverty. He remained with his father until he was twenty-two years old, helping to support the family of fourteen children, and he had no time for attending school and never could recall when or how he learned to read. Later



he attended school for a few months, and at the age of twenty-eight entered Miami University, making the trip from home on foot, and studied there two years. After leaving home he had engaged in the principal line of commerce then followed, the shipping of produce in flat-boats to the southern markets. For twenty years he followed this business, building his own boats and often directing them to the New Orleans markets. He was proud of the record that he had never lost a boat or a cargo. When a member of the legislature he presented the first bill to charter a railroad from Evansville to Terre Haute. In 1852 he moved to Bloomington to educate his children, and while there he was postmaster three years. He married, in 1831, Isabella Shepherd. He was a member of the Christian church.

*Pioneer Reminiscence.*

In 1905 the *Democrat* published some interesting reminiscences by pioneers of the county. The following paragraphs contain an abstract of the essential facts covered in these stories:

The first relates to the school days of "Uncle" Len Bailey in the Gardner schoolhouse on Curry's prairie. The building was of logs daubed with mud, a puncheon floor, and the ceiling of planks fastened with wooden pins driven through auger holes into the rafters. The house was so cold that the knots on the unhewed sides of the benches froze, bulged out and fell to the floor. The one stove in the center of the room was the only stove in that section of the country, and was the gift of Willis Benefield to the school district. Mr. Benefield owned a valuable horse, Old Jane, of Kentucky stock, and one of the fastest of her time. One day a stranger from Kentucky boasted that he had a horse which could outrun any horse in this section. He was promptly challenged for a race, and

when he insisted on wagering a considerable amount of money on the result, Mr. Benefield covered the amount, and the race was run on the public road. Old Jane won easily, and from the winnings was bought the stove for the school. Old Jane, with the possible exception of Old Puss, who was brought to this county in the sixties, was the fastest horse ever owned here. Old Puss was state champion. She was a quarter-miler, with a record of sixteen seconds for that distance.

Thomas Shepherd, who cast his first vote in 1848, then lived on the site of the present town of Hymera. The log house used for school and public meetings stood where the M. E. church is located. The window of the old school was merely an opening from which a log had been removed, and the door was an opening only large enough to allow a person of medium size to enter, and was closed with a log which when not in use was leaned against the side of the building.

Thomas Morgan, who was born in Gill township in 1830, at the age of twenty-one helped his father build a flatboat, 80 by 20 feet, with a hold of seven feet depth. Between the floor and the outside facing of the boat a space of ten or twelve inches was left in which the water might accumulate and be pumped out without damaging the stock. His father received \$150 for building the boat, and it was loaded with three thousand bushels of corn. Thomas Morgan engaged to accompany Captain Springer with this cargo to New Orleans, and the start was made in March, 18—. At Natchez Captain Springer tied up and sold his boat and cargo for \$3,000, which netted a profit of sixty-five cents a bushel for the corn. The return was made by steamboat as far as Evansville, thence to Princeton over the railroad that is now the Evansville & Terre Haute, and the rest of the journey to Carlisle was by stage. Another method by which some of the

residents of this vicinity carried on a profitable trade was in the buying of kiln-dried apples and peaches from the farmers at fifty cents a bushel, and then transporting them overland to Chicago or Milwaukee, where they could be sold at one dollar and a dollar and a half respectively. A wagon load was about sixty or seventy bushels, and it required two weeks to make the trip to Chicago and return and a week longer to Milwaukee.

An article in the *Democrat* of November 16, 1905, by S. H. Silver contains an excellent description of the implements used in farming and housekeeping in the early days. His grandfather, Thomas Bennett, was one of the earliest settlers in his part of the county, owning land in Hamilton township on the Merom road. In house building and the fabrication of nearly all the implements used on the farm the pioneers seldom used nails or rivets. Timbers were joined with wooden pins, and where pins could not be used, hickory-bark withes were employed. Bark ties were to the farmers of that time what wire and binder twine are now. One man said that a plow point was the first thing he had found that could not be fastened with a withe. Another, on being asked at April election if he had plowed any that spring, replied, "No; my gears are so broken up that I could not rig my teams until hickory bark would peel."

A fine shirt was seldom seen, but every man or boy who wished to dress up wore a dickey. This white linen bosom was worn over the shirt and fastened at the neck and waist with strings. In hot weather some discarded the shirt and wore the dickey and a light coat. At the general elections in August whisky flowed freely, and one man under its inspiration threw off his coat preparatory to a fight. The laugh that went up when it was noticed that he wore no shirt cooled his ardor.

The cooking utensils consisted of a three-legged skillet, Dutch oven, pots, and a sheet-iron skillet with a handle three feet long, called a fly or spider, and a smooth board eight inches wide—the johnny board. The nearest approach to a cook stove that was owned by Mr. Silver's mother until 1848 was a tin reflector, twenty inches long and fourteen inches wide, which, before a hot fire, would bake pies and biscuit nicely.

In the harvests, after the cradles were introduced, the wages of an ordinary reaper were fifty cents a day, while the cradler got one dollar. In threshing, when inconvenient to use horses for tramping the grains, flails were used. In winnowing, if the wind was insufficient, a sheet was fastened to a stake and flapped up and down to create enough air current to separate the chaff from the wheat. Grist mills being few, the mortar and pestle were used to supplement them. The mortar was made by setting a log on end and building a fire on top. The drier heart burned out to the depth of six or eight inches, leaving a smooth cavity. The pestle was an iron wedge, affixed to the end of a spring-pole. A handful of corn being thrown into the cavity, the pestle was pounded vigorously, and after the bran was separated the heavier portions of the grain were again placed in the mortar and pounded until reduced to meal of tolerable fineness. Wheat was ground the same way, but it was also "bolted." Wheat bread among the pioneers of this county was usually the luxury of the Sunday meal.

Log rollings were also a feature of the life of this pioneer family. This work lasted twenty-one days in succession one year, Sundays excepted. After that it was agreed that the rollings should also discontinue on Saturdays, so that the men might have a day to attend to their individual affairs. A feature of all such occasions, and one that only gradu-



ally was abolished, was the furnishing of whisky to all the men who took part in the work. At log rollings this was called "tapping of the stump." The jug was placed ahead of the men in a hollow stump, and when in the course of the work the men reached that point the liquor was passed around to all who would drink and there were few exceptions in the early days. Then the jug was moved on to another stump. A jug was also kept in the barn for the men when they went to their meals.

## CHAPTER V.

### MILITARY ANNALS.

The first organized military force that went from Sullivan county for service in the field was a company organized for the war with Mexico. Although the war with Mexico was not one of principle nor for any cause that was likely to stir the patriotism of the whole nation, it excited much interest in Sullivan county, and when the news came that "war is," a movement was at once begun to help fill out Indiana's quota. Joseph W. Briggs was foremost in this activity, and a few meetings at different points in the county brought out sufficient volunteers to make a company. About July, 1846, the volunteers left for New Albany, where they were assigned, as Company H, to the Second Indiana Regiment. The officers of the company were: Joseph W. Briggs, captain; Justus Davis, first lieutenant; Israel Benefiel, second lieutenant; Solomon Loudermilk, third lieutenant; Henry Dooley, R. McGrew, James H. Wier, James Hancock, sergeants; Harvey Wilson, John B. Hughes, Hosea C. Buckley, Thomas E. Ashley, corporals. The privates of the regiment at the time of the muster out were: Henry Adams, Willie Adams, N. Brower, Phillip Brower, John Borders, Willis Benefiel, Michael Borders, James B. Booker, Nelson F. Bolton, Robert Calvert, Patrick Carley, Charles Child, Thomas Coulter, George Davidson, Alfred Davis, John

Edds, Joseph Engle, William Essex, Richard Goss, H. M. Gilliam, James Garrett, Nathan Gatson, King Hamilton, Jonathan Hart, A. A. Hamilton, James Holsten, John Hill, Joseph Hooten, E. D. Hart, William Ireland, Henry Jones, J. J. Loudermilk, Preston Mosier, Redmon Malone, Gabriel Moots, Levin Nash, Benjamin Plew, John Ravenscroft, Charles Risinger, Charles G. Readay, Michael Ring, John L. Robinson, Joseph Strong, Volney E. Swain, William Shepard, Alfred Smith, Elijah Voorhies, Mark Wilson, Andrew Winters, William D. Wier, William Wheeler. Meshack Draper, Thomas Price and Richard Jenkins lost their lives in battle; John Shepard, John Marlow, F. J. Copeland, Enoch T. Reeves, John Vanosdoll and James W. Beauchamp were victims of disease. Those discharged before the muster out were Edmund Jones, W. R. Patton, Samuel A. Thompson, John Engle, Benjamin Johnson, John Mosier, Hugh McCammon, Henry Ransford, William Readay, Joseph Wells, Lewis F. Duncan, H. J. A. Burgett, Thomas Evans, Bonaparte D. Walls, John O. Watson.

The Second Indiana was sent to New Orleans in July, 1846, and from there to the Rio Grande, where it joined the forces under General Zachary Taylor. In February, 1847, it participated in the decisive battle of Buena Vista, occupying the extreme left of the American army, which bore the brunt of the Mexican attack. The regiment saw little active service after this battle, being occupied at various points in Mexico till the close of the war.

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#### SULLIVAN COUNTY DURING THE CIVIL WAR.

At the presidential election of 1860, the voters of Sullivan county were divided as follows:

Douglas .....	1,858	Breckenridge .....	128
Lincoln .....	856	Bell .....	55

The Douglas Democracy stood for "squatter sovereignty" as a means of settling the question of slavery or no slavery in the territories; and for the preservation of the Union of states. The abolition of slavery was not an issue expressly presented by any of the political parties.

Aside from its decisive expression of opinion in the election of 1860, Sullivan county continued throughout the following years of war steadfast in its adherence to a well defined policy of that period, namely, that the Union ought to be preserved, that the regularly constituted government was superior to all others and should be maintained, that there was no constitutional authority for secession, but that every peaceable means should be tried to preserve the Union rather than a resort to arms, and that no interference with slavery should be attempted.

In December, 1860, a meeting was held at Sullivan at which the "Crittenden Compromise" was favored as the best means for preserving the Union and averting war. The prevailing sentiment was that it was better that slavery should enter the territories rather than have war.

At this time and throughout the war, Murray Briggs, editor of the *Democrat*, was an editor who not only recorded public opinion but exercised a powerful influence in molding it. At this late day, when most of the passions aroused by the conflict have been stilled, it is possible to give full expression to admiration of this editor's independence of judgment and clear opinions, as manifested in his editorial columns from week to week. Before the outbreak of the war he said that it was difficult to concede the right of a state to secede, and thus destroy the government, but that he preferred secession to bloody, internecine war. April 11, 1861, his opinion was that "if Mr. Lincoln supposes that the people of the country will sustain him in any effort to compel the cotton states to remain in the Union, or return to it, by force of arms, he is vastly mis-



taken." He was still disposed to peace after Sumter had fallen. This caused a number of citizens in the southwestern part of the county to inform him that he was unpatriotic, and to this he replied: "We reiterate our remarks of last week, that if the war must come, and nothing will satisfy the powers of either section but a resort to arms, our wishes are for the success of the regularly constituted authorities under which we live." His discriminative allegiance was again mistaken for disloyalty, and on May 9, 1861, he restated his principles: "We have never believed in secession—the right is nowhere acknowledged in our constitution.... Had the hot-spurs of the cotton states waited for this means [the ballot box] to redress their wrongs, they would have done well. We have no sympathy for their movement. We have been given to understand that the leaders in this scheme are sustained by the people with great unanimity; we trust that it is not so, but that when the conflict comes they will refuse to sustain their self-constituted authorities in this unnatural war, and return to their old allegiance. Since we must have war, it is manifestly the duty of every man who professes attachment to the Union to sustain the president as the legally constituted head of the government. There must be authority of government, or anarchy will prevail."

Charges of disloyalty and treason were heard on every hand, and it is not strange that men of the highest and most sincere motives were sometimes involved in the net of suspicion and slander. The veteran printer and editor, John Wilson Osborn, who had been a reformer all his life, and a man of undeniable sincerity, though vehement in his radicalism, was an object of much criticism during the war. His paper, *The Stars and Stripes*, which he conducted at Sullivan during the war, was pronounced in its Union sentiment and strong in its support of the Republican administration. In March, 1862, a card was addressed to the editor, as follows: "We charge you with giving aid and comfort to the

rebels by constantly asserting that the Democratic party was disloyal and sympathizing with them. This you knew to be false, and added that offense to your treason. How could you more effectually give aid and comfort to the enemy than by representing that such large numbers of your fellow citizens were disloyal and desired the success of the rebellion?"

The attitude of the two political parties toward the war is shown in the resolutions adopted at the county conventions in 1862. The Republicans met about the middle of June. Valentine Moore was chairman and James W. Hinkle secretary. They deplored the horrors of war, but expressed confidence in the existing administration, and then continued with the following somewhat ambiguous resolution: "While we repudiate the agitation of the slavery question in and out of Congress by the anti-slavery men, and the lovers of that 'peculiar institution' out of slave states, as a firebrand kept alive to divide us, and to consume our democratic form of government by the destruction of our constitution, we denounce all sympathy with the originators and leaders of the rebellion, with whom there should be no fraternal feeling by any other than those who prefer being subjugated and murdered by an American traitor rather than a less criminal foreign foe."

On July 4th occurred the Democratic county convention. Dr. Michael Branson was chairman, A. Van Fossen secretary. Willis G. Neff was indorsed for prosecuting attorney. They resolved that "the Democracy of Sullivan county are, as they have ever been, opposed alike to secessionism and abolitionism." They pledged themselves to renewed efforts for the preservation of the constitution, and for the election to Congress of such patriots as Dan Voorhees and his co-laborers in Congress, "who have the nerve to apprise the abolitionists that this government was established for white men and not for negroes." They con-

demned the violation of constitutional power by officials and protested against the use of the people's money either in the District of Columbia or in the southern states for the feeding or clothing of worthless contrabands inside our lines "while our own soldiers have in many cases suffered for the necessities of life." Aside from the excitement and crowd incident to the convention, there were no exercises to commemorate the Fourth of July. The annual Methodist Sunday-school picnic was held at Merom.

A rather picturesque demonstration was the Democratic mass meeting in August, 1862. Crowds came in from Greene and Daviess counties and camped near the town the night before, and on the next day the throng was so dense that marshals had difficulty in handling them. About ten thousand people, it was estimated, were present. One of the features of the day was a procession made up of 1,700 men and women mounted on horseback, divided into companies, each company representing a state of the Union. The speaker's stand was in the grove north of the depot, where Willis G. Neff presided. The attraction of the day was the brilliant orator, Dan Voorhees. In a speech of two hours he denounced disunionists, both north and south, laid the responsibility for the war upon the Republican party, not upon Lincoln, who, he said, had been overruled. The speaker also opposed all schemes for the purchase of slaves, and laws forbidding the extension of slavery into new territory. Following Voorhees, Joseph E. McDonald discoursed for two hours, and the long day closed with recruiting speeches at the court house. It was about this time that Captain Holdson's company was raised for the Ninety-seventh Regiment, and recruits were being accepted for other regiments.

A few days later the Republican delegates nominated their county ticket—John A. Baldridge for representative, A. W. Springer, for treas-

urer, Fletcher Freeman for sheriff, Seth Cushman for commissioner, and Charles Harnish for assessor. Mr. Springer refused the nomination, and Jesse Burton's name was substituted, without his consent, he claimed. These nominations were made behind closed doors, a fact that gave excuse for many criticisms, and it was even suggested that the session might be a meeting of a lodge of the Knights of the Golden Circle.

The political campaign of 1862 came to a close with the election in October. The Democrats elected the entire county ticket and an assessor in each township, and at the same time gave 1,200 majority for Voorhees for Congress. Murray Briggs made significant the fact that if the soldiers had been at home, this majority would have increased to 1,500, since it was notorious, said the editor, that two-thirds of the soldiers in the field were Democrats and that nearly all of those who returned supported Voorhees.

An event that indicates the local opinion of the time, and may also be interpreted as of unusual significance in connection with later events, was a "citizens' meeting" in January, 1863, held at Antioch meeting house in Cass township. Thomas G. Neeley presided, and other officials named were John Bledsoe and Joshua Johnson, James B. Cochran and William R. Benton. David Usrey, Jesse Powell, William White and Jephtha Moss addressed the assemblage.

The sentiment of Cass township Democracy on the great questions of the day was expressed in resolutions that "We, the Democracy of Cass and adjoining townships, in mass convention assembled, accept the late elections as judgment of the ripe intellectual manhood of the country, in which this corrupt and tyrannical administration has been arraigned and by a just and righteous criticism condemned: for, among other things, precipitating this country in an unnecessary, unholy and ruinous civil war—for the many palpable and wicked violations of the constitu-



tion and its most sacred guarantees, in total disregard of the rights of personal liberty and private property—in its tyranny over our own race and foolish regard for a servile one—an audacious trampling upon the rights of our own citizens, with a humiliating crouching to every foreign demand.”

Then the convention demanded that the expressions of the people through the ballot-box should be regarded, that no money should be expended for war except to restore the Union; demanded peace without reference to its effect upon the African; an inquiry into the financial conduct of state offices; that since war is the result of New England fanaticism, “when we have exhausted every reasonable effort for the restoration of the Union as it was, should New England still stand in the breach, we, as western men, will consult western interests and western pride, which alike forbid that the great Mississippi valley should be divided, and thereby rendered tributary to a ruinous system of Yankee intolerance, cupidity and class legislation. . . . No, the great Mississippi valley now and forever one and inseparable. Then we will cheerfully say to New England, with all her cupidity, with all her meanness, fanaticism, follies and moral turpitude, we bid you good-bye, remembering you only for the wrongs you have done us.”

Further, the resolutions condemned the efforts to abridge the rights of free speech; expressed unbounded confidence in the courage of the volunteers, no confidence in the president or his advisers; in favor only of gold and silver currency; believed that the adoption of the Crittenden Compromise (at the time it was offered) would have saved the country.

It was soon after this convention that two Republican citizens of Cass township received anonymous notices to leave. It was alleged that these notices were sent by Republicans for the purpose of attaching odium to Democratic neighbors.

But the bitterness of politics and war had begun to affect even the calmest minds. In an editorial of March 19, 1863, Murray Briggs said: "A most significant fact illustrative of the state of feeling throughout the country is that authorities have forbidden the sale of firearms and ammunition. The next step will be to take from the people those they already have. If this is attempted, lookout for bloodshed."

While the weight of public opinion in the county was favorable to the Union and its preservation, the cause of abolition was never popular. In 1862 it appears that some abolitionists had dared to preach their doctrines in Fairbanks township. Their action brought out the following notice, published in the *Democrat*:

Fairbanks, Dec. 27, 1862.

*Notice to Abolition preachers:*

We, the undersigned citizens of school district No. 5, Fairbanks township, would most respectfully give notice to the above-named gentry that we can and will get along without any more of their abolition harangues—such as were delivered in our school room on Sunday night, Dec. 21st, by a certain Mr. Heath. It was not built for that purpose, and it *shall* not be used for such a purpose again. We are willing and anxious for the gospel to be preached in it by any minister of the gospel, *but we don't want any more abolition lectures by any minister.*

D. CRAWLEY, Trustee. L. FORDYCE, Director.

W. H. GRIFFIN, O. T. MARTIN, BENJ. EARNEST.

In the summer of 1863 there were picnics, political speeches, and some campaigning on the part of the Democrats of the county. A picnic at Fairbanks the first of August, 1863, was largely attended. Ed Price,

of Sullivan, presided. The principal speech was by Bayless W. Hanna, of Terre Haute, considered in his time one of the orators of the state senate, and who was elected attorney general of Indiana in 1870. On this occasion he discussed the conduct of the war and the arbitrary acts and peculations of the government. Other speakers were Colonel Cookerly, editor of the *Journal* at Terre Haute, and S. G. Burton. A flag was presented to the Fairbanks Constitutional Guards on behalf of the ladies of the township, by Miss Amanda J. DeBaun, and received by Lieut. William Fordyce. Then there was dancing, and the air frequently resounded with cheers for Voorhees, Vallandigham, the county ticket, etc.

A few days after this picnic at Fairbanks "a Democratic basket meeting" at the county seat was an occasion for a large assemblage, despite the threatening weather. James M. Hanna as presiding officer declared the adoption of some resolutions that indicate the progress of sentiment and the war. After reaffirming a devotion to the constitution and the Union, the resolutions condemned Lincoln for attempting by force to sustain himself in power, although elected only by a third of the people, and for avowing that the great battles are fought to "place all men, without regard to race, upon an equality"; condemning also the conscription act and approving the course of Voorhees in voting against such odious and tyrannical laws. Voorhees himself was present and spoke for an hour.

It was about this time that the alleged quotation from a Voorhees speech in which he characterized the Union soldiers as "Lincoln dogs" became current through the country. Editor Briggs, in his issue of September 17, 1863, declared that this report was "an infernal lie," but that Republican newspapers had passed it around all over the country. No report of the speech at Sullivan in which Mr. Voorhees was alleged to have used the offensive language is given. Though the specific utter-

ance can not be traced to Mr. Voorhees as author, a speech that he made at Sullivan about this time did arouse much bitter feeling among Union men, the memory of which exists to this day.

The election of October 13, 1863, involved only a few county officers, and the Democratic ticket was the only one in the field. In the spring election (April, 1864) for township officials, the "abs," as they were called, tried to steal a march on the regular Democrats by waiting till afternoon to present their tickets. A light vote was polled, but the Democrats carried all the offices except in Gill township.

The campaign of 1864 opened early, at the Republican convention of February 25, 1864. Prominent members of the party and citizens of the county took part in the deliberations. A. W. Springer presided, with Dr. J. J. Thompson and Prof. Hall as assistants, and John T. Gunn and John W. Canary as secretaries. James W. Hinkle, William H. Crowder and T. P. Emison reported resolutions declaring it to be the duty of all loyal Americans to unconditionally support the government in a vigorous prosecution of the war, condemning all parties who either for political partisan purposes or in sympathy with the enemies of the country embarrass the government; also recommending a thorough organization of townships for the approaching political campaign. The *Stars and Stripes*, that had been published during the first year or so of the war by John W. Osborn, had by this time discontinued, and one of the acts of this convention was the appointing of a committee to investigate the practicability of publishing an unconditional Union paper. The committee consisted of Lieut. Col. F. L. Neff, Dr. John M. Hinkle, T. Kearns, Dr. Duval, Dr. Buskirk, R. A. Bland, T. Burton, S. Myers, R. McClung, D. Baldrige, Lieut. Edward Maxwell and J. W. Hinkle.

The Democratic convention met about the first of June, with Michael Malott as chairman. No set of principles adopted or concurred in by



this convention was reported, though the course of Mr. Voorhees in Congress was strongly approved. On the 18th of September a McClellan Club was organized, based on these general principles: Equal and exact justice to all men of whatever state or persuasion, religious or political; peace, commerce and honest friendship with all nations and entangling alliances with none; support of state governments in all their rights as the most competent administrators of our domestic concerns; preservation of the general government in its whole constitutional vigor; jealous care of the right of election by the people; absolute acquiescence in the will of the majority; well disciplined militia; and supremacy of civil over military authority.

A camp meeting planned by the Democrats to take place in Jefferson township on August 19 was interfered with by heavy continuous rain, but on the following day part of the program was carried out, with Voorhees, Captain Puckett, of Clay county, Captain Van Fossen, and others, as speakers. While detained in Sullivan by the rain, Voorhees addressed the voters and arraigned the abolition party for their corruption, extravagance and usurpations, and denounced their impudence in demanding to know of the Democrats what plan they would follow in restoring the Union, after the Republicans had made such a miserable failure of their attempt.

Naturally, the editor of the *Democrat* speaks slightly of the Republican activities during the campaign. On September 29, 1864, he reports that "Governor Wright 'spoke his piece' last Thursday" (September 22d), as also Dave Gooding, a renegade Democrat from Hancock county, and Colonel Washburn, their candidate for Congress. "The fact that the committee had advertised largely and arranged for meeting in the grove near town made apparent the smallness of the crowd. We have heard no one put the crowd on the grounds at more than 700.

Colonel Jaquess made a very low-flung, abusive speech in this town last Friday (September 30th), having much to say of Jeff Davis."

The great presidential election of 1864 (in October) passed off quietly in Sullivan county. A light vote was cast, except in Hamilton township, where McClellan received 448 to Lincoln's 206. It was claimed that the Democratic soldiers were not allowed furloughs to come home and vote as were the Republicans in the ranks. But that mattered little so far as Sullivan county was concerned, since it continued to remain overwhelmingly Democratic. The vote for the principal state and county officers was as follows:

Governor—MacDonald, 2,187; Morton, 754.

Congressman—Voorhees, 2,181; Washburn, 750.

Circuit Judge—Eckels, 2,183; Brown, 751.

Prosecuting Attorney—Malott, 2,175; Mulkey, 749.

Common Pleas Judge—Patterson, 2,187; Maxwell, 749.

Dist. Prosecuting Att'y—John T. Scott, 2,186; Boudinot, 750.

State Senator—B. W. Hanna, 2,185; A. B. Crane, 750.

Representative—S. G. Burton, 2,135; N. G. Buff, 747.

Sheriff—Alex Snow, 2,184; William Purcell, 745.

Treasurer—John Giles, 2,181; T. B. Silvers, 742.

Coroner—B. B. Neal, 2,186; Loudermilk, 742.

Surveyor—N. Thomas, 2,184; McBride, 743.

Commissioner—I. W. Allen, 2,149; J. W. Hinkle, 749.

The economic aspects of the war were not less interesting and important than the political. Only those who lived through the conditions of the time can fully appreciate the stinting and deprivations that were imposed on the people. On the 3d of February, 1862, when the war had been in progress less than a year, at a sale of lands held for delinquent taxes, the real estate of probably two hundred citizens was put

up for sale to satisfy the taxes. The editor of the *Democrat* estimated that more than half of these persons allowed themselves to be returned delinquent from sheer inability to raise the money. "There is no actual suffering among our farmers, but it would astonish many to learn of the retrenchment that characterizes the household economy of the farmers of this county; how they use rye coffee, sassafras tea, dispense entirely with sugar, etc." On another page of this same issue is printed a notice of the intention of the county commissioners to enforce the old law allowing the treasurer to levy on and sell personal property for taxes.

At a meeting of the citizens of Cass township in Center schoolhouse (December 8, 1862) resolutions were adopted declaring that in view of the high prices put upon goods by eastern manufacturers and speculators and the low prices brought by farm produce, that they would refuse to sell except when adequate price was paid, and that they could in large measure do without the manufactured goods of the east. They called upon other citizens of other townships to co-operate with them in this movement to resist the artificial and speculative business movements of the east. A humorous comment on this attempt appeared in the *Louisville Journal*, being quoted by the *Democrat*. "We suppose the women of Cass township," concludes the Louisville editor, "are expected to substitute tacks for pins, thorns for needles, barrel hoops for steel ones, and that the men, dispensing with buttons, mean to fasten up their breeches with tow strings."

One result of the war was the interruption of traffic between the north and the south. The commodity of all others which was needed by the north, and which the blockade of the rivers and the seaports prevented the north from getting, was cotton. The lack of this staple caused the people of Sullivan county to resort to a branch of agriculture which had long been in disuse, practically since pioneer days. As elsewhere

stated, cotton was raised on a few farms by the pioneers, but its cultivation had been unknown for many years. In view of this fact, the following notice in the *Democrat* of April 24, 1862, is interesting:

Mr. Briggs—Sir: You may say that I have a sack of cotton seed on hand for distribution among the farmers of this county. All information necessary as to mode of culture will be furnished by calling at the railroad office.

JAMES KELLEY.

The same man advertised that he had flax seed to loan to farmers. These seeds were also distributed among northern farmers by the government, the object being to offset the loss of southern production by growing these crops in the soil of the northern states that were adapted to such crops.

In the first months of the war the patriotism natural to every people and to Americans in particular had swept large numbers into the enlisted ranks. The enthusiasm of military preparation, the display and pomp of marching soldiers, and the fascination that war always exercises over men, were strong influences at the beginning of the war, but when the reality of military life was brought home, when death and disease and hardships at the front advanced into prominence and the glories of war receded, there was a subsidence of enthusiasm, and instead there arose the sense of duty and grim determination, which were the principal factors that brought about the final triumph of the north.

As already noted, there was a strong feeling opposed to the war, not only in Sullivan county, but throughout the state. One of the immediate causes of the war was the election of a Republican president in the fall of 1860. Admittedly, this had been accomplished by the division of the Democratic party, the factions of which, altogether, cast a larger popular vote than that received by Abraham Lincoln. For this



reason, the war was considered a Republican party measure, and consequently not representative of the majority of the people.

Then, also, there were two issues that arose at the beginning of the war—the right of states to secede from the Union, and the abolition of slavery through federal power. In Sullivan county secession was regarded as a deplorable evil, one that should be avoided by every possible means, though perhaps the majority were in favor of almost unlimited concessions to the south rather than a resort to the coercion of arms. It was believed by many that rather than plunge the country into civil war, it was better to allow the southern states to withdraw. But the abolition of slavery did not make a popular appeal to Sullivan county people. It was not popular in many parts of the west, and particularly in all the border states. This was illustrated during the early months of the war, when the untactful order of General Fremont, as commander of the Department of the West, freeing the slaves in Missouri, caused a quick reaction of sympathy for the southern cause, so that the order was quickly annulled by President Lincoln.

Before proceeding to note some of the incidents and manifestations of this condition of sentiment regarding the war in Sullivan county, a quotation from W. H. Smith's "History of Indiana" will give a general view of the subject in the state at large. He says:

"Perhaps there was not a northern state which held so many persons who sympathized with the south, as did Indiana. At least two causes existed for this. A large portion of the people of Indiana, at that time, were either directly from the south, or were descendants of those who immigrated from some one of the southern states. Also, much of the trade of the people had always been with the south, the Ohio river furnishing an outlet for the surplus product of the Indiana farms and factories. This sympathy broke out almost as soon as the war came, but for awhile it was smothered under the tide of patriotism which swept over the state, but as soon

as that gave opportunity, the smoldering fires of opposition broke out. When the order of the Sons of Liberty [or Knights of the Golden Circle] was first instituted in Indiana, is not definitely known, but it is known to have been in existence as early as November, 1861. It was not strong in numbers then, but as the war was prolonged, and the burdens on the people became more oppressive, its membership grew, until early in 1864 it counted forty-five thousand or more members capable of bearing arms.

"It is just to say that not every one who became enrolled as a member endorsed the treasonable plans. They had joined it from one motive or another, but when they found what its real aims were, they ceased attending the meetings or taking any part with it, but they did not expose it. During the years 1862, 1863 and 1864 numerous outrages were perpetrated, in different parts of the state, on the persons or property of men known to be active adherents of the Union. Enrolling and draft officers were assaulted, and in some cases killed. Early in 1864 Governor Morton became fully advised of the existence of the order, its strength and its objects. It had become so bold then as to be in correspondence with southern commanders, and arranging for invasions of the state. Hitherto it had confined itself to resisting the draft, encouraging desertions and concealing deserters, and committing outrages on Union men, but it had grown strong enough to enter into more active assistance of the south. An invasion of the state was arranged for, when the members of the order were to rise and overthrow the state government, release the prisoners confined in Camp Morton, and then march to Kentucky to take possession of that state.

"As has been said, Governor Morton became advised of the existence of the order and its purposes. He had also received information that 30,000 revolvers had been bought and paid for, in New York, to be shipped to this state. They were marked 'Sunday school books.' Thirty-two boxes so marked were found, and contained 400 revolvers, with 135,000 rounds of ammunition. Harrison H. Dodd, of Indianapolis, Horace Heffren, of Salem, Andrew Humphreys, of Greene county, Lamdin P. Milligan, of Huntington, William A. Bowles, of Orange county, Stephen Horsey, of Martin county, and one or two others were arrested and confined in the military prison at Indianapolis. Heffren and one or two

others were released without trial; Dodd escaped from prison and fled to Canada, while his trial was progressing. The others were tried before a military commission appointed by the president. Bowles, Milligan and Horsey were condemned to death, and Humphreys was released on an order to confine himself during the continuance of the war to his own county. The three condemned men received from President Johnson a commutation of their sentence to life imprisonment in the Ohio penitentiary. After the close of the war they applied for a writ of habeas corpus, and after a lengthy hearing, by the supreme court of the United States, were released. The arrest of these men, and the rapid successes of the Union armies, effectually put a stop to all further direct opposition to the government, but there was still a strong undercurrent of opposition existing. After the close of the war a number of suits were brought against army officers, who had taken part in the arrest and trial of those charged with opposing the government, but they all came to naught."

In applying this description to Sullivan county it will be necessary to consider one or two factors in the situation, which are not mentioned by Mr. Smith, but which are in fact offsets to the charge of disloyalty, in this county at least.

In the first place, the acts of lawlessness cannot be charged to any political party, nor to the element opposed to the continuance of the war, nor even to the disloyal order above mentioned. There can be no doubt that the divided state of opinion with regard to the war produced conditions in which such acts were more easily committed and more easily escaped of sure punishment. But so far as the testimony shows, the lawlessness in Sullivan county may be traced to the viciousness which, in civil peace, is suppressed, but in war rises to the surface of society. There were outlaws in Sullivan county during the war, and for the accomplishment of their purposes and to cloak their crimes they professed affiliation without regard for principles. The cause of law

and order was supported by citizens generally in the county, irrespective of their political affiliation or attitude toward the war.

Without condoning the treasonable designs of the Knights of the Golden Circle, so far as they were directed to the invasion of Indiana by southern troops, it must be said as a matter of justice that the secret nature of the order, which was considered so offensive, was also characteristic of the Loyal League organizations which existed in the county and state. Both orders were conducted in a manner to do more harm than good to the causes they represented, and they served to increase the alarm and feeling of insecurity in the county.

The drafting of men for military service was the most unpleasant feature of the war, and it resulted in disturbances in every state of the Union. In Sullivan county the draft, the arrest of deserters, the outbreaks of lawlessness, resulted in a number of incidents which belong to the history of the period, and which are more important features of Sullivan county during the war than the operations of the armies on the battlefields of the south.

September 1, 1862, was the first day for the draft commissioners to examine those claiming exemption from draft. The *Democrat* says that the day was characterized by the most disgraceful scenes that ever occurred in this town. Probably one thousand people were in town. Not being a "public day," the saloons were open, and riotous conditions prevailed. A man named Hammond beat an old man seventy years old, and this engendered a number of fights. Sheriff McCammon was unable to quell the disturbance, and was himself very roughly handled.

The results of the enrollment of the county military showed that the county had, by September, 1862, furnished 1,098 volunteers to the war. At the same time the militia of the county (that is, men under



forty-five who were liable for military duty) numbered 2,276, the exemptions reducing this number to about 1,760.

The men appointed in Sullivan county for the task of enrolling and drafting were: William Wilson, draft commissioner; W. D. Moore, provost marshal; John M. Hinkle, surgeon; and a deputy for each township—Fletcher Freeman for Cass, Lafayette Stewart for Hamilton, Mr. Watson for Jefferson, J. Davis for Haddon, J. W. Reed for Fairbanks, Robert Carrithers for Turman, G. H. O'Boyle for Gill, James T. Spencer for Curry, and W. N. Patton for Jackson.

The first draft was made in the early days of October, and passed off without special incident. Blindfolded, F. Basler drew lots from the militia list for the required number to fill the quotas. But six men were drafted, four from Cass and two from Jefferson township, the other townships filling their quotas without recourse to this method.

It was not until 1863 that the unrest and opposition to the war began to result in serious disturbance. The principal events growing out of these causes, so far as recorded in the files of the *Democrat*, will be given.

The arrest of Daniel Case, in March, 1863, on charge of desertion from the Ninety-seventh Regiment, at his home in Cass township, caused criticism of certain men in that township on the charge that they were aiding deserters. This incident had a partisan political aspect. At a meeting of citizens, the resolutions passed declared that the Democratic party did not wish to encourage desertion (as evidently had been charged) and would not protect any deserter nor interfere with his arrest by the proper authority. It was reported that 500 people attended the meeting. Andrew Humphreys, of Greene county, made a speech characterized by calmness and moderation in discussing the attitude of citizens toward the government and the war.

In a few days (April 10) the county was aroused by the arrest

of nine citizens residing about the northeast corner of the county. The arrest followed an indictment by the grand jury of the United States district court of Indiana on the charge of conspiracy. A deserter had testified that these men belonged to an organization, one of whose objects was to prevent arrest of deserters and aid them if arrested. The indicted men were taken to Indianapolis and released on bail. A few days before this occurrence James Herriford, Mike Evans and Fletcher Freeman had been arrested on charge of desertion. Some irregularity in their discharge papers was the cause of the arrest.

The general distrust that prevailed in the county is shown in the arrest, in April, of Nelson Osborn, who, having returned to Sullivan after an absence of two or three years, was supposed to be a spy from the Confederacy. He was of a somewhat roving disposition, and his return at this time was regarded with suspicion of secret motives that would never have occurred to anyone in times of peace. After being held about a month, Osborn was released, nothing having been found to confirm the charge.

Some deserters found refuge in Sullivan county. Also some criminals from civil justice kept their haunts about the county during the war. At various times parties of soldiers were dispatched to the county for the purpose of arresting deserters, to preserve order, and to guard against infractions of military discipline. Occasionally the soldiers conducted themselves with the insolence and license that often characterized detached squads when not directly under the restraint of strict discipline. In nearly every case the enforcement of a military order in the county was accompanied by disturbance of the civil community and left wounds and bitterness that many years failed to entirely heal.

An affair occurred in Cass township that illustrates this point. About the first of June, 1863, reports reached Sullivan that the brothers

of a deserter named Bennett had shot two soldiers sent to arrest him, but later reports showed that the brothers had only threatened to shoot and that the soldiers had desisted from their object. A few days later a party of sixty soldiers were sent down, presumably for the purpose of arresting Bennett. Instead, they conducted a search through Cass township and parts of Greene county for United States arms. The intrusion produced a great commotion in the eastern part of the county. No doubt the actions of a searching party, however decorously conducted, would have aroused resentment, but the soldiers were charged with several acts that apparently went beyond the warrant of their duty. Some provisions were taken, it was said, a horse was impressed for the use of a sick soldier. Houses along the route were searched for arms. Horses were picked up along the road and taken with the company. As Joseph Pigg passed by the spot where the troops were encamped for the night, he was stopped, but was allowed to proceed when he explained he was on an errand for a sick child. Galloping on, he was shot at by another sentry because he did not halt at once. This brought the people together in an excited assemblage to defend their rights. A deputation was sent to the camp, and at their demands the stolen horse was returned with apologies. The *Democrat* editor stated that the consensus of opinion in Cass was that when troops who conducted themselves properly were sent for deserters, the aid of the citizens would be afforded the troops, since the presence of prowlers from the army was not desired.

Another incident, illustrative of certain political bitternesses that sometimes became acute and cankered the relations of an entire community, was described in the *Democrat* of June 11, 1863, under the title of "Disgraceful Affair." "At a largely attended funeral at the Little Flock meeting house last Sunday, as the body was being lowered into the grave a woman named Jewell seized the opportunity to snatch a

butternut ornament from a young man named Burch. A big strapping fellow immediately commenced an attack on a boy who wore a similar badge of his Democracy. We are mortified to say that a regular fist fight ensued. One of the champions of the ring handed the woman who had so unsexed herself a dollar as reward for her conduct." Other occurrences of this nature were not infrequent.

From the facts that have been observed concerning the state of feeling in Sullivan county, the causes that produced the most tragic event in the county during war times are readily understood. The death of Fletcher Freeman will always be associated with the political discord and the opposition to the war and draft that marked this period in Sullivan county.

Fletcher Freeman, as above noted, was deputy enrolling officer for Cass township. On the morning of June 18, 1863, he was shot from ambush and killed, though at that time he was not actively engaged in duties pertaining to his military office. He had started for a rendezvous of road hands, a summons having been issued for the working of the roads in that particular district. Meeting two men, Shaw and Rusher, who were bound on similar business, he sent them back to his house for tools. They had retraced their steps by a short distance when they heard the report of a gun. One of them, having been in the army, recognized the cries as those of a man who had been shot. Hurrying back, they found Mr. Freeman lying in the road, in the agonies of death. A brief examination of the surroundings showed that a blind of branches and brush had been built near the roadside about twenty or twenty-five feet to the side. Scraps of meat and bread and piles of whittlings indicated that the place had been occupied by perhaps three persons for one or two weeks. There was no clue to the murderers. Mr. Freeman had several years before been proprietor of the American Hotel at Sullivan,



and was a former Republican nominee for the office of sheriff. He had assisted in raising the Thirteenth Battery of light artillery, and expected to be commissioned an officer. He was declared unfit for duty and was honorably discharged. One of the men who had been induced to enlist by Mr. Freeman deserted, and because compelled to remain in the service, he threatened to shoot Freeman, who had escaped duty. This was a possible cause of the assassination, but whether it was a case of individual malice or was in part the result of the prejudice existing against the draft act and all agents connected with carrying it out, was never determined. Several threatening letters had been sent because of his work as enrolling officer.

On the Saturday following the tragedy a hastily called meeting was held in the court house. James W. Hinkle was chairman, A. Van Fossen secretary. Those participating in the proceedings on this occasion indicated the general condemnation passed upon the deed by all the representative class of citizens. Addresses were made by James C. Allen, a member of Congress from Illinois, and Willis G. Neff. The committee on resolutions were H. K. Wilson, George Parks, William Stansil, Daniel Herbert, Joseph W. Wolfe, Murray Briggs and John T. Gunn. The resolutions as adopted say Mr. Freeman was shot in consequence, "as we have every reason to believe, of the recent faithful discharge by him of the duties of enrolling officer under the conscript act." The committee urged the necessity of appealing only to the ballot box and the courts for relief from the burdens entailed by the acts of war; that the duty of every law-abiding citizen was to endeavor to discover and aid officers of justice in arresting the perpetrators of this crime.

Mention has been made of the formation of companies of home guards in different parts of the state, many of which were secretly

formed to offset the secret organizations of the Sons of Liberty. Little can be said of the home guards beyond the fact of their existence and their formation during the summer of 1863. The Graysville Guards was the first, the officers of which were R. H. Crowder, captain; Addison McKee, 1st lieutenant; Sherrod Burton, 2d lieutenant. This company was mustered in as part of the Indiana Legion, and was supplied with arms by the state. In September the Graysville company had the misfortune to lose several muskets, stolen, perhaps, by their enemies. In endeavoring to arrest the guilty parties an encounter followed in which some shots were exchanged, but no one was injured, nor were the guns recovered.

In the issue of August 31, 1863, the *Democrat* says: "We have heard for several months that an organization of Loyal Leaguers was formed in Sullivan. Such has been kept very secret. General Wilcox having issued an order against such societies, it was changed to 'Union Riflemen,' a company of the Legion. The success of the Graysville company in securing arms last week raised the spirits of the men, and they met at the court house to elect officers. Jesse Burton of Graysville presided. Sewell Coulson explained the purpose of the meeting and the necessity of militia. Indiana had allowed the militia system to fall into disuse; he dwelt at length on the fact that the Legion would not be required to leave the state." The officers of the Sullivan company were Captain Walls, Stewart Barnes, 1st lieutenant; Rev. Taggart, 2d lieutenant. A little later a similar company was formed at Merom, under Captain B. F. Stover and another at Carlisle under Captain David Edmiston.

To supply comforts for the wounded soldiers in the hospitals of the south, and to aid the families of enlisted men who, while in the army, were unable to properly support those dependent upon them at

home, a practical charity was necessary which, in thoroughness, has not been duplicated since the war. Organized charity, in the modern sense of the term, was unknown forty years ago, and in consequence the first efforts were largely individual donations and private relief. But as the war continued and the needs became more pressing, aid societies were formed, and the contributions were systematically directed to the points of greatest want. The Sanitary Commission was a national organization, with branches throughout the country, and the various local bodies, ladies' aid societies, etc., co-operated with this larger body.

The women, and citizens generally, of the county began this form of charity in the first year of the war. It became necessary to relieve distress during the first winter after the beginning of the war. The first great battles of the war in which many of Sullivan county's soldiers took part were those of the western campaign including Corinth in the spring of 1862. By this time the sanguinary character of the war was realized, and in anticipation of the struggle at Corinth, in April, 1862, a meeting was held at Sullivan to collect materials for the relief of the soldiers. Rolls of bandages, lint, half-worn shirts, muslin and money for the purchase of same to the amount of 150 yards, were collected, and forwarded to the field of war.

Individual cases of want were relieved during the winter of 1862-63, but in the latter part of November, 1863, the first society was organized for this purpose. The organization took place in the court house, George Parks being made president and Daniel Langdon secretary. A committee of twelve were appointed to canvass the town and vicinity, taking subscriptions, and ascertaining what families were in need and reporting to the committee of distribution. The members of the latter committee were Murray Briggs, George Parks and James W. Brodie. The canvassing committee were Mrs. F. D. Neff, Mrs. Dr. Thompson, Mrs. M.

Malott, Mrs. William Griffith, Miss Mattie Stark, Miss C. M. Reed, J. H. Weir, J. H. Wilson, Matthew McCammon, James W. Hinkle, W. G. Neff, William Griffith.

About the middle of December, 1863, the *Democrat* reports that the wood hauling demonstration was not a success owing to the rain and bad roads. However, enough was brought to relieve present necessities, and a liberal supply of beef, molasses, meal, apples, etc., was received.

One of the incidents of the rebellion which occurred in Sullivan county was the accidental death of Professor Miles J. Fletcher, state superintendent of education. Early in May, 1862, Governor Morton and a party of friends were on their way to visit the battlefield of Corinth in anticipation of the great battle. Just above the Sullivan station their train ran into a box-car standing on a switch. At the noise of the collision, Professor Fletcher put his head out of the window, and was struck by the edge of the car and the top of his head lifted off. The dead man was cared for at Sullivan, and the governor's party then proceeded on another train. The state of feeling at the time is well illustrated in the charges that were freely made then and for a long time afterward, that the car had been placed on the track to wreck the governor's train. The testimony at the coroner's investigation proved that Milton Belser, a young soldier of the Thirty-first Regiment, returning with a friend from making an evening call, had loosed the brakes and started the car "to get a ride." The car ran off the switch and on to the main track, and was not discovered before the governor's special came along. Belser was arrested near Evansville while on his way to the army, but the jury failed to find an indictment against him.

The following is a list of the battles and campaigns participated in by the various regiments containing soldiers from Sullivan county. Some of the enlisted men from this county were scattered through other



regiments, only a few in each, but those named here were the principal regiments containing enlisted soldiers from this county.

*Seventeenth Regiment.*

Belle Plain road, Georgia, June, 1864.  
Chattahoochie River, Georgia, July 7, 1864.  
Chickamauga, Georgia, September 19-20, 1863.  
Coosaville, Georgia, October, 1863.  
Corinth, Mississippi (siege), April 11 to May 30, 1862.  
Ebenezer Church, Alabama, April 1, 1865.  
Elkwater, Virginia, September 12-13, 1861.  
Farmington, Tennessee, October 7, 1863.  
Flat Rock, Georgia, October, 1862.  
Goshen, Georgia, October, 1864.  
Greenbrier, Virginia, October 3, 1861.  
Hoover's Gap, Tennessee, June 23-30, 1863.  
Kenesaw Mountain, Georgia, June 27, 1864.  
Leesburgh, Georgia, August, 1864.  
Macon, Georgia, April 20, 1865.  
Marietta, Georgia, July 3, 1864.  
McMinnville, Tennessee, October 4, 1863.  
Munfordsville, Kentucky, September 14-16, 1862.  
New Hope Church, Georgia, May 25, 1864.  
Pumpkin Vine Church, Virginia, June, 1864.  
Rome, Georgia, May 17, 1864.  
Selma, Alabama, April 2, 1865.  
Stone Mountain, Georgia, July, 1864.  
Thompson's Cove, Tennessee, October 3, 1863.

*Twenty-first Regiment.*

Baton Rouge, Louisiana, August 5, 1862.  
Cornet Bridge, Louisiana, December, 1862.  
Des Allemands, Louisiana, September 8, 1862.  
Fort Gaines, Alabama, August 5-8, 1864.  
Fort Morgan, Alabama, August 5-13, 1864.  
Lafourche Crossing, Louisiana, June 21, 1863.  
Mobile, Alabama (siege), March 27 to April 11, 1865.  
Port Hudson, Mississippi (siege), May 21 to July 8, 1863.  
Sabine Cross Roads, Louisiana, April 8, 1864.  
Spanish Fort, Alabama (siege), March 27 to April 19, 1865.

*Thirty-first Regiment.*

Atlanta, Georgia (siege), July 21 to September 2, 1864.  
Chickamauga, Georgia, September 19-20, 1863.  
Corinth, Mississippi (siege), April 11 to May 30, 1862.  
Fort Donelson, Tennessee, February 13-16, 1862.  
Franklin, Tennessee, November 30, 1864.  
Kenesaw Mountain, Georgia, June 27, 1864.  
Nashville, Tennessee, December 15-16, 1864.  
New Hope Church, Georgia, May 25, 1864.  
Resaca, Georgia, May 15, 1864.  
Shiloh, Tennessee, April 6-7, 1862.  
Stone River, Tennessee, December 31, 1862 to January 2, 1863.

*Forty-first Regiment of Cavalry.*

Corinth, Mississippi (siege), April 11 to May 30, 1862.  
Fair Garden, Tennessee, February 19, 1865.

Gallatin, Tennessee, August 21-27, 1862.  
McMinnville, Tennessee, August 9, 1862.  
Newman, Georgia, July 31, 1864.  
Pea Ridge, Tennessee, April 15, 1862.  
Perryville (or Chaplin Hills), Kentucky, October 8, 1862.  
Scottsville, Alabama, April 2, 1865.  
Talbot's Station, Tennessee, December 29, 1863.  
Triune, Tennessee, June 11, 1863.  
Tuscumbia, Alabama, May 31, 1862.  
Varnell's Station, Georgia, May 9, 1864.  
Vinegar Hill, Kentucky, September 22, 1862.  
West Point, Georgia, April 16, 1865.

*Forty-third Regiment.*

Fort Pillow, Tennessee, June 5, 1862.  
Helena, Arkansas, July 4, 1863.  
Island No. 10, March 10 to April 7, 1862.  
Marks Mills, Arkansas, April 30, 1864.  
New Madrid, Missouri (siege), March 3-14, 1862.  
Peach Tree Creek, Georgia, July 20, 1864.  
Prairie Leon, Arkansas, April 10, 1864.  
Red Mound, Arkansas, April 17, 1864.  
Terre Noir, Arkansas, April 2, 1864.

*Fifty-ninth Regiment.*

Champion Hills, Mississippi, May 16, 1863.  
Corinth, Mississippi (siege), April 11 to May 30, 1862.  
Corinth, Mississippi, October 3-4, 1862.  
Island No. 10, March 10 to April 7, 1862.

Missionary Ridge, Georgia, November 25, 1863.

New Madrid, Missouri (siege), March 3-14, 1862.

Vicksburg, Mississippi (siege), May 18 to July 4, 1863.

*Thirteenth Battery.*

Hartwell, Tennessee, December 7, 1862.

Monterey, Kentucky, March, 1862.

Munfordsville, Kentucky, September 14-16, 1862.

Versailles, Kentucky, October 5, 1862.

*Seventy-first Regiment of Cavalry.*

Cassville, Georgia, May 19, 1864.

Kenesaw Mountain, Georgia, June 27, 1864.

Knoxville, Tennessee, November 17 to December 4, 1863.

Lost Mountain, Georgia, June 17, 1864.

Muldraugh's Hill, Kentucky, August 28, 1862.

Nashville, Tennessee, December 15-16, 1864.

Pulaski, Tennessee, September 27, 1864.

Richmond, Kentucky, August 29-30, 1862.

Resaca, Georgia, May 15, 1864.

*Eighty-fifth Regiment.*

Atlanta, Georgia (siege), July 21 to September 2, 1864.

Averysboro, North Carolina, March 16, 1865.

Bentonville, North Carolina, March 19, 1865.

Cassville, Georgia, May 19, 1864.

Culp's Farm, Georgia, June 22, 1864.

Dallas, Georgia, May 27, 1864.

Golgotha Church, Georgia, June 15, 1864.



Kenesaw Mountain, June 27, 1864.

Peach Tree Creek, Georgia, July 20, 1864.

Resaca, Georgia, May 15, 1864.

Thompson's Station, Tennessee, March 5, 1863.

*Ninety-seventh Regiment.*

Atlanta, Georgia (siege), July 21 to September 2, 1864.

Bentonville, North Carolina, March 19, 1865.

Big Shanty, Georgia, June 14, 1864.

Dallas, Georgia, May 27, 1864.

Graysville, Georgia, November 27, 1862.

Island No. 10, March 10 to April 7, 1862.

Jonesboro, September 1, 1864.

New Hope Church, Georgia, May 25, 1864.

Resaca, Georgia, May 15, 1864.

*One Hundred and Fifteenth Regiment.*

Blue Springs, Tennessee, October 10, 1863.

*One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Regiment of Cavalry.*

Franklin, Tennessee, November 30, 1864.

Nashville, Tennessee, December 15-16, 1864.

Pulaski, Tennessee, September 27, 1864.

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Sullivan county furnished a large quota, in proportion to population, for service in the Philippines following the Spanish-American war. On the return of some of these soldiers in 1901 a home-coming celebration was made the feature of the Independence day of that year, and it was

notable for the presence of a great crowd in Sullivan and for the many evidences of military patriotism. The veterans of three wars were present, there being three Sullivan county survivors of the Mexican war—Willis Benefield, Joe Ingle and John Stanley. A list of the soldiers from this county who had enlisted for service in the Philippines, as prepared by the committee on reception, contained the following names:

Andrews, Boyd, Carlisle.	Haddon, Jesse, Dugger.
Austin, Alva E., Sullivan .	Hammack, John, Sullivan.
Barcus, George, Hymera.	Hammond, Elmer, Sullivan.
Bays, Harold C., Sullivan.	Hawhee, James H., Carlisle.
Bose, Frank, Jackson Hill.	Higbee, Ray, Sullivan.
Boles, Benjamin, Sullivan.	Johnson, Robert W., Sullivan.
Buff, John, Merom.	Keene, Samuel, Hymera.
Bunch, John, Sullivan.	Kelly, Harry H., Sullivan.
Cook, Edward B., Hymera.	King, James A., Merom.
Coyner, Earl, Merom.	Kircheval, William, Farmersburg.
Cleveland, Herbert, Carlisle.	Leach, Marshall, Sullivan.
Crynes, John, Jackson Hill.	Lester, Arthur H., Merom.
Day, Homer, Sullivan.	Lucas, Charles E., Sullivan.
Denny, Charles W., Sullivan.	Luzader, Claude, Sullivan.
Dooley, Stephen J., Sullivan.	McCammon, Herbert, Paxton.
Dorsey, Arthur, Sullivan.	McCloud, Fred, Sullivan.
Edmonson, Stephen, Jackson Hill.	McCloud, John, Sullivan.
Everhart, William S., Jackson Hill.	McClure, John, Sullivan.
Foster, William E., Sullivan.	McClure, Orlando, Sullivan.
Freeman, Benjamin N., Sullivan.	Morris, Bert, Merom.
Gardner, Fred, Sullivan.	Neal, John J., Sullivan.
Groves, Charles, Merom.	Neal, Bert, Sullivan.

Norton, Nelson, Sullivan.	Wible, John W., Merom.
O'Haver, Arthur, Sullivan.	Wilson, Perry, Jackson Hill.
Pinkston, Arthur, Merom.	West, Thomas E., Sullivan.
Purcell, John E., Paxton.	Yeager, James E., Graysville.
Sanders, Earl, Hymera.	Young, Walter, Sullivan.
Sankey, Jesse, Fairbanks.	Daniels, Will, Merom.
Shake, Norris, Carlisle.	Lee, George, Merom.
South, Levi, Sullivan.	Wilson, James, Carlisle.
Spilkey, James F., Sullivan.	Jenkins, Lee, Carlisle.
Terwilliger, Louis A., Sullivan.	Rotramel, Charles, Carlisle.
Thompson, Frank H., Merom.	McGrew, Finley, Sullivan.

## CHAPTER VI.

### SULLIVAN COUNTY EDUCATION.

The academies and select schools were the chief source of education for the children of this county until about forty years ago. The average public school was hardly worthy of the name, as compared with the modern system. There were no public funds available to support common schools for more than a brief term, and the people learned only slowly to provide for schools by taxation.

The first constitution of Indiana, adopted in 1816, provided for education. Yet in an early day the cause advanced slowly. There was no school law under the territorial government, nor any state law on common schools until 1824. Nearly all the schoolhouses built both before and for some time after that date were erected by voluntary efforts of neighborhoods; and all schools were supported by agreements between teachers and patrons. The one definite provision for education made by the national government, in planning the disposition of the public domain, set aside section 16 in every congressional township for the maintenance of public schools. When Indiana became a state the care of these school sections was intrusted to the state government; so that, while the other sections of the township were entered at the government land office, this section 16 was disposed of by the state, and the proceeds turned



over for the support of schools in that particular township. Hence was produced what is known as the congressional township school fund. There are fifteen townships and fractional townships in the area of Sullivan county, and the total amount realized from the sale of section 16 in each was over \$17,000. The largest amount realized from any one section was \$3,403.25, for the section in town 6 north, range 10 west, in the southwest corner of the county. Evidently many of the school sections proved of little value, while others sold for a high price, thus causing a wide divergence between the amounts derived from the various sections. In Indiana, since the proceeds of the school section were devoted to the benefit of the schools in the congressional township where the section was located, the inequity of the system proved one of the greatest weaknesses of the common school system during the first half of the century. One township would receive a disproportionately large income for the schools, while perhaps the one adjoining, because section 16 had sold for only a few dollars, had no income for the support of schools except the local tax.

In 1824 the general assembly passed an act to incorporate congressional townships and provide for public schools therein. The act provided for the election in each township of three persons of the township to act as school trustees, to whom the control of the school lands and the schools generally was given; and for the building of schoolhouses. Every able-bodied person in each school district who was over twenty-one years of age must work one day in each week, or else pay thirty-seven and one-half cents in lieu of a day's work, until the schoolhouse was built. Almost every session of the legislature witnessed some addition to or modification of the school law. Provision was made for the appointment of school examiners, but the examinations might be private, and the examiners were quite irresponsible. Under such circumstances

it could not be expected that competent teachers be employed. Often the most trivial questions were asked a teacher, and this was called an examination. In many instances there was no examination at all—the teacher was simply engaged to teach.

A free school system was not provided for until after 1850. Each district had complete jurisdiction over its school affairs, deciding every question concerning the building of a schoolhouse and the regulation of local school affairs. The taxes for building the schoolhouse and for the support of the teacher were assessed by the authority of the district, and the amount of tuition to be assessed against each child attending school was fixed by the local board. There was no considerable state school fund until after 1837, so that the annual distribution of school money by the state had little effect on the individual schools. With local taxation kept down to the minimum amount by nearly all the counties, the school system of Indiana soon became a reproach to its free institutions. It was during this depressing period of educational backwardness that the word "Hoosier" became a term of derision, denoting the uncouth and ignorant countryman that the inhabitant of Indiana was supposed by most easterners to be.

In 1840 one-seventh of the adult population of Indiana could not read nor write, and many of those who could were densely ignorant. While one out of seven was illiterate in Indiana, the proportion in Ohio was only one out of eighteen. Ohio raised \$200,000 in 1845 for common schools, while Indiana had no means of raising such tax. In the matter of literacy, Indiana stood sixteenth among twenty-three states in 1840; in 1850 she was twenty-third among twenty-six states, "lower than all the slave states but three," as Caleb Mills expressed it.

With such alarming statistics before them, the people of Indiana were soon awakened to their educational necessities, and as a result

of the agitation the question of free schools was presented to the voters in concrete form in the general election of 1848, when the vote was taken on whether a law should be enacted "for raising by taxation an amount which, added to the present school funds, should be sufficient to support free common schools in all the districts of the state not less than three nor more than six months each year." At the election 78,523 votes were cast in the affirmative; 61,887 against it. But before the legislation which resulted from this election became effective a new constitution was adopted by the people, followed by the passage of the school law of June 14, 1852. This marked the passing of the district system of schools and the beginning of the era of actual free schools. It abolished the congressional township as limiting school organizations, and made the civil townships into school corporations. Cities and incorporated towns were made school corporations distinct from the townships in which located.

For many years there was a lack of uniformity among the various townships in school affairs, resulting from the absence of anything like a central county supervision. It was not until 1873 that an important step was taken toward unity in school management, by the creation in that year of the office of county superintendent, a county board of education and of township institutes.

Until 1837 the trustees of each congressional township had examined applicants for teaching positions. From 1837 to 1853 the circuit court appointed three persons as examiners; this appointing power was transferred to the county commissioners in 1853. In 1861 the number of examiners was reduced to one, with service term of three years. The first to hold the position after the law of 1861 was Murray Briggs, the editor of the *Democrat*, who held the office two terms, until 1867. He was succeeded by Charles R. Allen. In 1871 George W. Register became

examiner, and after the law of 1873 continued in office as the first county superintendent. Any account of the schools of Sullivan county ought to make acknowledgment of the work of Mr. Register. His numerous reports in regard to the schools visited, the work in the county as a whole and of each township, his records of county and township examinations, well written and timely articles on school buildings and grounds, on the relations of parents to the schools, on the necessity of more schools, longer terms, more efficient teachers, all show that he put far more time, energy and thought into his official work than could be paid for by the miserable pittance of \$80 a year that constituted the wages of the school examiner.

With the law of 1873 the county board of education was made to consist of the township trustees, the presidents of the school boards of towns and cities, and the county superintendent. The county superintendent was elected by the township trustees, for a term of two years, and the trustees and the superintendent have complete oversight of the schools of the county. By the same law the township institute became an effective instrument for securing unity in school work and raising the standards of the teaching body.

The first regularly elected county superintendent after the passage of the law was James A. Marlow, elected by the county board in June, 1875. He served sixteen years, and was followed by C. W. Welman, who served four years, since which time, for fourteen years, Mr. Richard Park has been superintendent. In 1899 the term was lengthened to four years.

In 1858 the total school population of the county was 5,414. In 1861 this had increased to 5,836, and the total school fund distributed that year was \$7,936.88. Aside from tuition and taxation, the amount available for the education of each person of school age in the county at the



beginning of the Civil war was about a dollar and a quarter. In 1866 the enumeration was 6,303, and the fund \$14,632.86. In 1870 the enumeration was 7,049, fund, \$14,980.25. In 1880, enumeration, 7,349, fund, \$15,790.82.

The report of George W. Register in 1873 showed that the enumeration in the county for 1872-73 was 7,520. Of these there were enrolled in the schools 5,974, but the total attendance averaged only 3,472, being about 46 percent of the enumeration. The average term of school then was 83 days. "Can it be expected that the youth of our country will become educated if only 46 percent of them attend school 83 days in the year?" It was also shown that the average per capita cost of education per year in the state at large was \$5.53, Sullivan county being below the average with an annual cost of \$4.72. In the superintendent's report for 1873-74 the attendance was shown to have increased to 52 percent of the enumeration, the average length of the school term being four months and ten days, and the average daily pay of teachers, \$2.15.

There was considerable rivalry among the township trustees over the length of the school term. In the *Democrat* for March 13, 1872, it was noted that James Spencer of Curry township claimed credit for running schools in his township longer than in any other, schools being maintained over six months and no teacher receiving less than two dollars a day.

But select schools still supplemented the free schools, as proved by the following resolution adopted at the meeting of the county board of education in September, 1874: "In view of the fact that teachers who have taught private schools in the township houses have failed in almost every instance at the close of their schools to make the reports required by law, be it resolved by this board that any teacher who has failed or

may hereafter fail to make the required reports shall forfeit his or her right to the use of the houses hereafter for private schools."

The first annual report of Superintendent Marlow, in 1876, states that there were 114 district schools in the county, and that while the school term was increasing, in many cases it was only four or five months long. Since 1873 the average wage of teachers had fallen from \$2.15 a day to \$2.11. He reported increased interest and attendance at the township institutes. The district schools, he said, were without any system or course of study. "If one of our higher schools were conducted on this principle for a single term, it would be declared a nuisance and disbanded." The compensation of teachers in 1879 ranged from \$1.50 in Jackson township to \$5.00 in Sullivan, for men, and from \$1.48 in Jackson township to \$2.25 in Merom for women. Cass township had school but 90 days, while the school ran 170 days in Carlisle, the average length in the townships being 116 days, and in the towns 140 days.

In 1882 Superintendent Marlow submitted to the county board a scheme for the graduation of pupils from the district schools. A series of questions were to be submitted by the different teachers, and a general average of eighty was necessary for graduation. In March, 1886, occurred the first graduation from the district schools, when the superintendent granted twenty-five diplomas.

In 1887 there were 71 colored school children in the county. In the colored settlement near Carlisle a separate school was maintained for these children, and for a time it seemed that the school must disband because no competent teacher could be found, as the supply of colored teachers was very limited. The Carlisle school had about 25 or 30 enrolled. After much difficulty a man was obtained to teach, but he was unable to secure a license. Then an old man who had taught some twenty-five years before was sought, but he had never had a license and

could not pass the examination to get one. Finally John Bass of Carlisle was installed as teacher.

In September, 1902, Trustee James Scott of Fairbanks township took the first step toward the consolidation of schools, when he closed two schoolhouses and conveyed the pupils of the districts to the school at Fairbanks. This was not "consolidation" in the legal sense of the term, it being possible to abandon a district without surrendering its separate identity, which is the result when two or more individual districts become a consolidated district. The central school at Fairbanks is now used by five districts.

At Graysville is one of the model rural schools of the consolidated type. Its manual training department has attracted wide attention from educators. The district schools about Graysville were abandoned from 1904 to 1907, and two more in 1908. Eight wagons are used to convey the children from the distant parts of the consolidated district, care being taken in all consolidated schools that the children shall not be compelled to ride in the hacks longer than an hour and a half each way. The school building at Graysville was erected some five or six years ago. About 230 children are in attendance, and a three-year high school course is maintained both at Graysville and at Fairbanks. An article in the *Democrat* in March, 1906, stated that George Bicknell's school at Graysville had attracted the attention not only of the state superintendent of instruction but also of many other prominent educators. Toward the end of the first year's work, the hand-designed books, hand illuminated texts and symphonies, the book-cases, table and stools, leather sofa pillows and other efforts of the children were brought in and a display made which astonished the community. A printing outfit is also in the equipment, and practical work done in both printing and binding.

The Paxton consolidated school district comprises five original

single districts in Haddon township, five wagons being employed to carry the children. The schoolhouse at Paxton is a new four-room brick building. There are at this writing 130 pupils, 95 of whom are brought to school in the wagons. There is a one-year high school at Paxton.

At Carlisle the town school is also attended by the children of adjacent districts in Haddon township. Three wagons convey 47 pupils to town.

At New Lebanon is one of the largest consolidated rural schools. This is one of the most modern examples of school building in the county likewise. The front half of the schoolhouse is about ten years old, while the addition was erected about two years ago. It is a 12-room building, with good heating plant and modern equipments. Six districts were abandoned and merged with this central school, and seven wagons are used to carry the 133 children. The high school has seven teachers.

In Jefferson township the pupils of one district (about 24) are carried to Pleasantville, and in Hamilton township the 14 or 15 pupils of the Creager school are taken to the Brodie school.

Altogether, twenty-nine wagons are in service for the conveyance of school children. The county has six incorporated towns, each with its school system, while in the country outside are 99 individual schools.

The report of Superintendent of Schools Park for the year ending in May, 1908, showed the enumeration of school population for the county to be 9,468, the townships showing a net loss of 157 and the towns a net gain of 73. The average daily attendance for the year was 6,969. The graduates from the district school were 188, not including the graduates from the eighth grade in the towns having commissioned schools. The average length of the school year in the county was 147 days, being 139 days in the townships and 160 in the towns. The total number of teachers employed in the county schools were 191, 24 of them



being in the high schools. Of the schoolhouses in the county, 76 were brick and 49 frame buildings, all of which were valued at \$319,000. The average daily wages of teachers in the county at large was \$2.92, that for grade teachers being \$2.87.

In one of the monthly bulletins published by the state superintendent in 1908, the Mammoth school, four and a half miles northeast of Sullivan, was declared "an ideal district school." The following description of the school is given:

Last October and November the writer visited several rural schools. The best district school visited is located in Sullivan county, about four and one-half miles northeast of Sullivan. This school was visited late in October. The county and city superintendents, the township trustee, three rural school teachers and a minister visited the school at the same time. It is located in a mining district and there were fifty-seven children in the room. The building is a modern one-room structure, with two vestibules or cloak rooms and a basement for the furnace. The light in the room comes from the north side, which is taken up with windows reaching nearly to the ceiling. The lighting, heating and ventilation are as near perfect as they can be made. The building has been in use three years and is free from abuse. It looks entirely new. Everything was in neat order. The boards were well kept because the pupils take a pride in keeping them neat. The assignments on the board were neat and definite. The order was as good as anyone may ever want to see, because every child was busy at work all afternoon. The instruction was excellent, the work in reading being unusually strong. "Spinning a Top" was made the basis of the first year reading work. The children furnished the material for this

reading lesson. There was no estrangement between the teacher and pupils, hence they gave the most natural expression to their childish experience with the top. As the teacher wrote their stories on the board they realized that "language is the symbol of their actual experiences." The assignment in this lesson found its subject matter in the child's world, and as a result the expression was natural. The work in geography and spelling was of the same character.

But best of all was the fine spirit of the school. Every child was happy and was doing his best. Every child seemed to realize that it was his school and that its success depended at least in part on him. And when they sang their closing song and started home their hearty good-night showed that they believed in the teacher. And what was the secret of it all? The teacher, to be sure. He is genuine. He is in love with his work and he is not afraid to work. He lives in the community and knows the people. He is a great blessing to the community, but he can not stay there. Not because he does not want to stay nor because the people do not want him to stay—but because there is a larger field of service for him. No wonder the trustee pays him \$90.00 per month!

Those residents of Sullivan county whose memory goes back to the forties and fiftes recall a brick building that stood in Sullivan and was known everywhere as the County Seminary. It was the capstone of the public educational system of the time, since its range of usefulness and benefit was larger than the state university because the majority of the counties in the state had such institutions. The funds accumulated from the fines, forfeitures and delinquencies, which by an early state law were to be converted into a seminary fund, had reached about a thousand dollars in 1845, and the county board then proceeded to erect

a seminary building. The seminary was designed as an institution between the common schools and the university, and located at the county seat was open to all pupils in the county.

For seven or eight years the seminary maintained its place in the educational system of the county. With the adoption of the constitution of 1851, the policy of keeping up county seminaries was abandoned; and the grounds, buildings and other property of the seminaries were ordered to be sold and the proceeds turned over to the common school fund. The people had become satisfied that it was impracticable to carry on county high schools, and that all the energies of the state in relation to popular education should be concentrated in the support and improvement of the common schools.

The first purchaser of the old seminary building failed to liquidate his purchase, and the building reverted to the county and continued to be used as a schoolhouse for a number of years. In 1856 L. Leroy Booth advertised that he would begin a select school in the seminary building at Sullivan on January 7th, teaching Latin, Greek, German and the higher branches of mathematics in connection with the common branches. The ground occupied by the seminary was sold to the Sullivan school board, and in turn sold, in 1872, to the Masonic lodge.

For some time in the fifties the village of New Lebanon was the educational center of the county. This was largely on account of the activities of Professor A. P. Allen, principal of the New Lebanon Academy, which had been founded in 1853 and was under the management of the Methodist church. The school was taught in the church building until the academy building was completed in 1855. The school flourished until shortly before the war, and during its existence many young people received training in branches that were above the grade of the average school of that day. There is the flavor of the older

educational ideals in the following list of the branches then taught in the school—algebra, chemistry, composition and rhetoric, outlines of history, natural philosophy, natural theology, botany, trigonometry, logic, mental philosophy, moral science, surveying, astronomy, geology, elements of criticism, mechanical philosophy, and history of English literature. Does a modern curriculum produce better men and women than this old-fashioned one did?

An advertisement in the *Democrat*, December, 1855, states that the building of the Indiana Conference Male and Female Academy had just been completed, and names the teachers as follows: Professor A. P. Allen, assisted by Mrs. R. J. Allen, and Miss Mary Brock. Massom Ridgeway was president of the board of trustees.

*Union Christian College.*

In the Sullivan *Democrat* of September 20, 1856, is a card announcing that the Merom Bluff Academy, a new institution,\* will open October 1st, with Mr. E. W. Humphreys as principal. He and his wife were the faculty, and the old court house building, abandoned on the removal of the county seat a dozen years before, and which stood on the site now occupied by the Merom town school, was the quarters of the academy. The academy was conducted with success for several years, until the proprietor, while on a trip abroad, conceived the plan of making a college out of his school.

A convention of delegates of the various conferences of the Christian church met, November 4, 1858, at Peru, Indiana, "to consider the interests of the Christian church in the west and the propriety of erecting an institution of learning in the state of Indiana." The convention decided to



“recommend the establishment of an institution of learning in the state of Indiana, to be under the control of the Christian conferences in the state and vicinity.” A committee was appointed to decide upon a location and to take all necessary steps to carry out the recommendations of the convention. The committee decided upon Merom as the location, and the name Union Christian College was adopted as the name of the new institution.

The first sessions of the new college were held in the old court house, as the five-story brick building was not completed until 1862. Thomas Kearns, of Merom, was credited with the skill and executive ability which resulted in the successful construction of this building. N. Summerbell was the first president after Mr. Humphreys, and was succeeded by Thomas Holmes, and he by T. C. Smith. The last named resigned in 1882, and was succeeded by Rev. Elisha Mudge.

In 1902 the college received \$50,000 endowment, as a result of the will of Francis Asbury Palmer, formerly president of the National Broadway Bank, of New York City, who offered the college \$30,000 provided \$20,000 was raised by other subscriptions. Dr. J. C. Jones, president of the college, worked with others vigorously to secure the funds. The death of Dr. Jones occurred in 1907, and he was succeeded by O. B. Whitaker, who is now president of the school. Union Christian College is an accredited normal school. Its average attendance is about 125, the students for the most part living within a radius of forty or fifty miles of Merom. Recently there has been completed a handsome dormitory for the women residents of the school. The school is on a fairly prosperous basis, and its half century of active educational and moral influence has been felt in the lives of hundreds of men and women whose names are synonymous with civic and business integrity.

*Ascension Seminary.*

To say that Ascension Seminary is now but a memory is to miss the finer and real appreciation of the influence of an institution of this kind. The material existence of this school ceased nearly a third of a century ago, yet the hundreds who, if opportunity were offered, would rise and protest their loyalty to the institution and their sense of gratitude for the benefits received within its walls would effectually prove the enduring character of its work. The old seminary still lives for the men and women who attended it, and with the passing of their generation, others will continue to inherit the good influences set in motion at an earlier period.

It is claimed that the Ascension Seminary was the pioneer normal school of Indiana, and its work is said to have inspired the erection of the state normal school at Terre Haute. The origin of the school was described a few years ago by Murray Briggs (*Democrat*, July 2, 1903). In 1861 Prof. William T. Crawford, then scarcely twenty years old, began teaching a common school at Farmersburg. The editor of the *Democrat* was then superintendent of instruction for the county, and was so pleased by the results exhibited during a visit to this school that he recommended all the teachers of the county to close their schools for one day and take an opportunity to visit the school at Farmersburg. Professor Crawford's services at once became more valuable as an instructor of teachers than in his former capacity, and the importunities of those who desired to place themselves under his instruction led him to open a small normal school in a building which in 1903 was a buggy shed. He also began the erection of a building of suitable dimensions for his proposed school, but when it was well under way he left it to raise a company and go to the front. On his return in 1865 he refitted

the building, engaged an assistant in Prof. David Shoemaker, and formally opened the Ascension Seminary as a normal school for the training of teachers. By 1872 the school had outgrown its building, and Captain Crawford then arranged to consolidate his school with the high school of Sullivan, to which he was summoned as superintendent. From that time until 1876 he conducted this department as a normal institute in connection with the regular town schools. In the opinion of Mr. Briggs, the chief forte of Professor Crawford lay in his ability to impart his wonderful enthusiasm to others, and hundreds of students became successful teachers because of this faculty. To have been a student in Professor Crawford's school was considered an "open sesame" to employment as teacher, and the fact that over two thousand of his former pupils followed teaching as a profession would tend to prove this assertion.

Some of his associates in conducting his normal school, besides Mr. Shoemaker, already mentioned, were Charles W. Finney, John T. Hays, A. P. Allen and W. H. Cain. An interesting advertisement of the seminary in 1869, while it was at Farmersburg, is the following: "The schools will open the fall and winter term on Monday, Aug. 16th, 1869. *Young men and ladies* desirous of obtaining a good Practical education or of taking a Scientific course will do well to attend this institution, as the aim of the instructors is to elevate the standard of teaching. Lectures will be given each term by the Principal William T. Crawford on the 'Theory and Practice of Teaching,' also lectures on Moral Science by Drs. J. Barbre, C. W. Finney and D. L. Shoemaker. . . . Also instrumental music on Piano or Melodeon if a class of ten desires to take lessons. Tuition \$10. Miss Alice S. Hawkins, teacher. . . ."

After the normal school was transferred to Sullivan the attendance in this department was about one hundred and fifty, many of whom came from the surrounding country and boarded in town during the

school term. One of the early observances of the arbor day custom occurred in April, 1874, when, at the suggestion of the editor of the *Democrat*, the students of the normal department met to plant the school yard with trees. Chiefly evergreens were brought, and after the planting dinner was served on tables set the length of literary hall. The sessions of the normal school were held on the third floor of the recently completed Sullivan school building.

At the opening of the Sullivan schools in 1872, after the consolidation of the seminary with the graded schools, the faculty under Professor Crawford consisted of Professors Cain and Allen, Miss Sarah Cain, Miss Doris and Miss Debaun. At the close of October, 1872, the principal reported the total attendance of the Sullivan schools to be 501 pupils, ninety-one of whom were of foreign birth or parentage. The number in the normal department was 174, in the grammar school 105, and 220 in the primary department.

Two interesting reunions of recent years have had the associations of the old seminary as the binding tie of the occasion. In August, 1902, at the old settlers' picnic in Bennett's grove at Farmersburg, a reunion of the old students was held, and among them the following: John C. Chaney, Rev. W. R. Halstead, Hon. W. A. Cullop, I. H. Kelley, Dr. George F. Plew, L. F. Donham, Rev. J. H. Strain, Prof. H. W. Curry, Hon. R. H. Catlen, A. A. Beecher, S. Stark, H. Z. Donham, William M. Moss, D. W. Henry, L. K. Stock. The following year another reunion was held, this time in the old frame seminary building itself, which had been converted in the meantime into an amusement place known as Brunker's Hall. Of those present, fourteen were residents of Farmersburg, and eighty-seven were from other places.

Many former pupils of the Sullivan and Carlisle schools remember William H. Cain, who was principal of the Sullivan schools for several



years in the seventies, and later filled a similar position at Carlisle until advancing age caused him to resign, and he returned to Sullivan, where he died, August 9, 1896. He was seventy-five years of age, and had lived in this county about twenty-five years. He was a member of the Masonic order.

A few years ago, when the first examinations were held in the United States for the Rhodes scholarship prizes, Frank Aydelotte, one of the young students from Sullivan county, was among the successful competitors. He went to Oxford in 1905. He had already acquired his master's degree from Harvard, and had taught in the California state normal and at Indiana University. Since his return from his studies abroad he has joined the faculty of the University of Indiana.

As a scientist and educator, one of the most distinguished citizens of Sullivan county, was John W. Spencer. He was born in Salem, Indiana, in 1824, and was one of the first students of Indiana State University, though he was unable to complete his course. While Dr. D. D. Owen was making his "Geological Reconnoissance" through Indiana in the late thirties Mr. Spencer was carrying mail from Lawrence county to Greencastle. The eminent geologist traveled in company with the mail carrier, who proved to be not only a capable guide but also an enthusiastic disciple of the science of geology. This early association and training furnished Mr. Spencer with the special branch of learning to which he afterward gave much attention and in which his labors were effective in the advancement of geology. He was one of the pioneer school teachers of Sullivan county, taught subscription schools until free schools were established in the fifties, and continued in the practical work of education for over forty years. He assisted in the geological survey of Sullivan county in 1870, and in 1871 was elected a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences, and later was

chosen a fellow of the association. He was called "one of the most diligent, deserving, and, in certain lines, accomplished scientists in the state of Indiana." He was the first secretary of the Sullivan county teachers' institute.

## CHAPTER VII.

### TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION—THE RIVER TRADE BY FLATBOAT AND STEAMBOAT—DAYS OF THE STAGE COACH AND ROAD WAGON.

The subject of means of communication and transportation recurs again and again in the history of the county. Ever since men began to live on the earth, the matter of going from place to place and carrying things from place to place has been of vital importance; and the higher the development of society the more perfected become the methods of such communication.

It would be impossible to conceive of our country in its present state of civilization without the facilities for movement and transportation which men have devised and improved during the last hundred years. The problems now presented in the moving of material and persons from place to place are among the most serious and perplexing which engage the attention of communities, states and the nation.

Cities and towns grow in population accordingly as they are conveniently situated with respect to transportation facilities, or as these facilities are supplied when needed. An agricultural district, however fertile, will be improved to the point of profitable production only when means

are at hand or are provided by which the products may be readily and economically taken away to the markets.

These economic principles find many illustrations in the history of Sullivan county. The county has had its Indian trails, its paths blazed through the woods, its primitive state and local highways, its water routes, its graveled pikes, its railroads, and its electric lines, each accompanying a new degree of development and marking a new era in the welfare of the people.

During the pioneer era of Sullivan county, the Wabash river was the great artery of transportation. From the records of the pioneers it will be found that many of the early settlers used the river route for at least a part of their migration. Some came up the river in canoes or other light craft. Vincennes was at the time the intermediate station for settlers, who usually stopped there before making their final selection of land. The journey to Vincennes was often made by water, and from that point the emigrants struck inland to their new homes on the prairies.

But the Wabash river was of less importance to the actual settlement of this county than as a commercial highway after the people were permanently located and had begun to produce the crops of the soil in quantities greater than the demands of local consumption. The problem of sending produce to the markets and of bringing home the commodities which supplied the wants of a pioneer community was largely solved, in this county, by the transportation facilities of the Wabash river.

It was only a few years after the organization of the county that the inhabitants of the Wabash valley witnessed the unusual spectacle of a craft propelled by steam against the current of the river. The first steamboat



passed up the river as far as Terre Haute in May, 1823, and that event signalized the beginning of an important commerce both up and down the river, which continued until the railroad era. Previous to that time the only boats that could make progress up the river were light hand-propelled craft, hardly serviceable for regular commerce.

*Flat Boats.*

The magnitude of the Wabash commerce in 1832 is described in a quotation from "The Emigrants and Travelers' Guide," published in that year. "Hundreds of flat-boats annually descend the Wabash and White rivers. . . . The trade of the Wabash river is becoming immense. In 1831, during the period between March 5th and April 16th, fifty-four steamboats arrived and departed from Vincennes. It is also estimated that at least one thousand flat-boats entered the Ohio from the Wabash in the same time. In February, March and April of this year there were sixty arrivals of steamboats at Lafayette." This writer tells us that one-tenth of the flat-boats, according to estimate, were "loaded with pork at the rate of 300 barrels to the boat,"—another tenth said to be loaded with lard, cattle, horses, oats, cornmeal, etc., and the remainder with corn on the ear. The value of produce and stock sent annually to market from the valley of the Wabash was estimated by one authority at nearly \$1,000,000.

The flat-boat was an ideal craft for the times and purpose for the Indiana rivers, from its light draft, its capacity and cheapness. The flat-boats were made in the fall and winter, ready for the spring waters. Trunks of poplars, sometimes 90 to 100 feet long, without a splice, were

used for the gunwales. The tree was squared by hewing, and then mounted on "bucks" so that two men could whip-saw it from end to end. The two timbers were then about eight inches thick and from two to three feet wide. These formed the two sides or gunwales. Near the lower edge of each gunwale, a groove was cut a depth of two or three inches to allow the flooring to be set on, and the planks were bolted by wooden pins. The pins were made by the barrel. Spikes were not used because of expense and scarcity of iron. The seams were calked with hemp or flax. Uprights were set at intervals along the gunwales, and the sides were boarded up to the required height, depending upon the draft of the vessel. A thousand bushels of corn were often the contents of one cargo.

The boats were built bottom-side up, and when finished were turned over by block and tackle. Sometimes they were built on a slope at the water's edge so that turning was easier. Another method was to turn the boat right side up in the water, sand being piled on one side until the weight was sufficient to careen the other side, and a little skilful maneuvering put the craft upright.

Corn was shipped in the ear. The southern planters preferred it so to being shelled and sacked, since it was less liable to spoil. One of the staples brought back from the south was New Orleans sugar. Of course, sugar was a luxury, and until the steamboat era reduced the cost of transportation the pioneers generally depended on maple sugar and other home-made substitutes. Even after the steamboat traffic became general, a large proportion of the imported merchandise used in Sullivan county was brought in overland from Louisville and Evansville. For a number of

years a man named Webb, of Merom, carried on an extensive business in hauling goods overland. He had several fine teams in which he took much pride.

Busseron creek was also considered a navigable stream during the flat-boat era. Owing to the presence of forest growth and lack of drainage, the waters of this and similar tributaries were greater in volume and less fluctuating than in later years, and during the spring freshets it was possible to float boats loaded with produce down the current of Busseron. Caledonia was once a center for the flat-boat traffic, and boats were also loaded at Carlisle and other points.

#### *Mails and Stage Roads.*

For the transportation of mails and passengers, the pioneer epoch had few regular facilities. Mails were carried overland from Vincennes to Merom and to Terre Haute usually by horseback. Travel was usually by the same means, and the individual traveler depended on his own horse and followed such roads as he found through the wilderness. When steamboats began running up and down the river, mail and passengers were conveyed on the boats, and about the same time the state road was constructed from Vincennes north through Merom to Terre Haute. For many years this road was the principal thoroughfare for all kinds of traffic up and down the Wabash valley. The river was not navigable at all times of the year, and consequently the stage road was more to be depended upon for transportation the year around. A line of stage coaches ran over this route even for a year or more after the building of

the railroad north and south. Merom was a regular station on the line, which passed on through Graysville and Fairbanks into Vigo county.

The state road was so called because it was laid out in accordance with the provisions of a special act of the state legislature. Still other highways were confined to the county itself, although generally connecting with other thoroughfares at the boundaries. Such highways were under the sole jurisdiction of the county commissioners and known as county roads. A large part of the time of every session of the county board during the early period of the history of the county was taken up with hearing petitions for these county roads, appointing viewers to lay them out, hearing and approving the reports of the viewers and establishing the roads, or in listening to remonstrances and appointing reviewers. In time, however, all the necessary roads have been laid out, and it is not often now that petitions for new roads are presented to the commissioners.

#### *Modern Road Building.*

The attention of the county board and of the township road authorities is now, and has been for years, chiefly given to bridging, draining, grading, graveling and otherwise improving the highways already laid out. Although when first laid out and improved, the various highways were for a time distinguished as national, state, county and even township roads; yet now, and for a long time, all roads are improved and cared for under the county and township road authorities, and the laws in relation to highways apply uniformly to all public roads, no matter by what authority they were originally established.

It is said that the United States postal authorities in charge of the



free delivery mail routes have recently pronounced the highways of Indiana the best in the Union. In Sullivan county the process of permanent road improvement is not more than twenty years old. At the present time there are about 400 miles of "improved" roads in the county, that is, roads that have been graded and surfaced with rock or gravel, so that their condition is comparatively speaking one of permanent improvement.

Certain portions of highway in the county, especially what have been known as "Busseron bottom roads," became subjects of special work and expense some forty years ago. There is record of a meeting at the court house in 1867 of those interested in the improvement of the Linton road across the Busseron bottom. J. C. Brodie was chairman. The sum of \$800 was subscribed for the repair of this highway.

Aside from these special efforts to make passable roads, the good roads movement in this county began during the latter decade of the '80s. In 1886 it was estimated that the total amount of taxes for roads collected during the preceding ten years was \$57,373.39, this being the net amount after deducting expenses of collection. The amount expended on roads in 1876 was \$2,665; 1878, \$3,393.64; in 1879, \$2,608.72, while during the last four years of this decade the annual expenditure had reached over nine thousand dollars per year. And yet a very small part of this sum had been expended with a view to permanent results, and the roads were considered as bad if not worse than before.

About 1890 a new law was enacted providing for the construction of gravel roads, to be paid for by township taxation. In Sullivan county the building of gravel roads met strong opposition. The newly organized F. M. B. A. directed its power against this form of community under-

taking, and when these lodges began to oppose it the public agitation in behalf of the movement was partly nullified. The *Democrat* had little to say in its columns except to call attention to the depth of mud on the various roads and the consequent loss of business to Sullivan.

But the good roads movement made an appeal to business interests that made its ultimate success inevitable. In January, 1892, a meeting at the court house resolved unanimously in favor of building a road from Sullivan to the gravel beds in Turman township. The executive committee appointed by this meeting consisted of Claude Crowder, Robert Dudley, John H. Welling, Jacob Billman and J. L. Higbee, while a committee to furnish estimates of cost was composed of P. H. Blue, Harry Pittman, C. L. Davis and T. J. Wolfe. About the same time a session of the farmers' institute devoted an entire afternoon to the road question.

A resume of the road situation was published in February, 1892, in which it was shown that from 1875 to 1890 the sum of \$90,805.84 was paid out for roads, an average of six thousand dollars a year, exclusive of salaries to trustees and supervisors and the sums paid for road scrapers, graders and plows; also it did not include the sums paid out of township funds nor work done by road hands who were warned out by the road supervisors and required to work a certain number of days. All this money was declared to have been wasted so far as any permanent improvement in the condition of the county's highways was concerned.

About the middle of that decade, however, the construction of gravel roads became general in different parts of the county. An item in March, 1896, states that in nearly all the townships petitions for improved roads were circulating, and that the surveyor and viewers had been at work

in Haddon, petitions having been circulated for the grading of roads in almost all directions from Carlisle.

In July, 1897, a contract was awarded by the county commissioners for the construction of 77 miles of road in the county, for a total sum of \$137,000. Other contracts followed each year, until within ten years the county had about four hundred miles of road. While many of these roads have been surfaced with gravel, in recent years the commissioners have awarded large contracts for crushed stone roads. There are no large gravel deposits available in the county, and it has been found to be more economical to bring in crushed stone for road making. The cost per mile of a stone road is between four and five thousand dollars.

The building of these roads has been a heavy drain upon the resources of the county and townships. Several years ago it was found that some of the townships had reached the limit of their indebtedness, and were unable to contract further improvements. In May, 1906, it was announced that the county commissioners would entertain no petitions for graveling roads until the different townships became able to assume their share of the financial burdens. Every township was then bonded to its legal limit, and no funds would be available for road making during the next two years. It was charged that this condition was largely the result of the abuse of the privilege of building short roads. Every resident had interested himself in the construction of a road past his farm, but this did not promote a thorough system of roads, laid out for the best welfare of all concerned.

#### *Bridges.*

The building of bridges has been one of the important functions of

the board of county commissioners from the time of the settlement of the county. At the present time it would be difficult to find in the county a highway crossing over a stream that is not bridged. Along the principal roads, especially those traversed by the stage and mail lines, bridges were built at an early date, though until within the memory of the present generation a customary method of getting over a stream was to ford it, and the roads often turned aside from the straight line in order to strike the stream at a fordable point. Likewise a great change has occurred in the type of bridges used. Formerly the wooden bridge was altogether in use, the superstructure resting often on wooden pillars, but sometimes on stone columns. Most of the larger bridges erected within the last twenty-five years have been of iron or steel construction, though the cement arch and the reinforced concrete type has rapidly come into favor during the past ten years.

One of the early iron bridges of which there is record was a bridge built over Buck creek in 1883, the King's Iron Bridge Company of Cleveland having the contract. The supports for this bridge were four iron columns about twenty inches in diameter, filled with rock and cement, and the fifty-foot span was of iron. In 1886 the county commissioners contracted for the building of two iron bridges, one over the Busseron at Paxton and one at Carlisle.

The commissioners reported, in November, 1894, that 31 iron bridges had been put up in the county as a result of orders from their office. Each year a considerable part of the county expenditures have been devoted to the construction of bridges, the sum expended in 1901 being nearly eleven thousand dollars.



## CHAPTER VIII.

### THE ERA OF RAILROADS AND ELECTRICITY.

Following the era of river and canal and stage-coach transportation came the railroads. During the stirring epoch of internal improvements of the early thirties, railroads and canals were planned to supplement each other. Eight railroads were chartered by the Indiana legislature in 1832, and during the next five years twenty-eight charters in all were granted for proposed lines. But for the time the canals were pushed with greater energy, and the era of railroads in Indiana begins with the middle of the century.

The first railroad in the state was a mile and a half long, at Shelbyville, as part of the Lawrenceburg and Indianapolis line. It cost \$1,500 a mile, and was opened July 4, 1834. Its traction equipment was one horse, which "was found able to draw forty or fifty persons at the rate of nine miles an hour." A few miles of the line from Madison to Indianapolis was opened in 1838, and marked the real beginning of the great railroad system of the state.

After the collapse of state enterprise in promoting internal improvements, the Madison road was turned over to a private company. The

first train steamed into Indianapolis on October 1, 1847, and at this date the Madison & Indianapolis Railroad was the only one of importance in the state. The progress of railroad building during the next few years is indicated in the figures for 1850, when five short roads comprised only 212 miles in the aggregate, and for 1852-53, when twenty roads were in operation in the state. Railroads ruined the canal enterprises, and it is also noteworthy that the towns which grew during the second half of the century were those located on railroad lines.

The first railroad between the Wabash and Indianapolis was built between Terre Haute and the capital, largely through the enterprise of Chauncey Rose, who was the first president. This road (now the Vandalia) was completed at the close of 1851. Up and down the Wabash valley the freight traffic was still carried by the canal and river packets. On the south the nearest railroad to Sullivan county was a line that had been started from Evansville about 1850, and after progressing as far as Vincennes halted there for lack of means. Chauncey Rose saw the value of a southern connection for his east and west road, had the line surveyed, raised funds, and W. D. Griswold built the first railroad through Sullivan county and was placed in control of its management.

This was the origin of the Evansville & Terre Haute Railroad, which was completed through Sullivan county in 1854. The first train passed through Sullivan over this line November 25, 1854. For several months preceding passengers had been conveyed between Sullivan and Carlisle by stage.

It is not surprising that the advent of the first railroad to a community was made the occasion of celebration, and the year 1854 was

marked by several gatherings in Sullivan and Carlisle and elsewhere in the county to give proper distinction to an event of so much significance to the whole welfare of the county and its people. The construction of railroads at that time partook more of the character of a popular enterprise than is true of present undertakings. Large subscriptions were raised in the country tributary to the roads, and without this assistance few of the earlier roads could have been built. It is estimated that Sullivan county contributed about \$100,000 to the building of its first railroad, and that over half of this amount was paid in 1854, a year which was marked by an almost total failure of crops. Carlisle gave the largest amount of any town in the county. The first survey located the road three miles west of the village, and rather than lose the great prize some sixteen public-spirited citizens subscribed over thirty thousand dollars to the railroad company.

The railroad did not solve all the problems of transportation for the people of Sullivan county. Either the railroad management proved somewhat arbitrary in its dealings, or the people were slow to accustom themselves to the new conditions. There is curious evidence of this attitude toward the railroad in a brief article in the *Democrat* of January 24, 1857, in which complaint is made of the exorbitant railroad rates and of the lack of depot facilities. The wagoners of Sullivan had met a few days previously, with Isaac Voorhiss chairman and John Carico secretary of the meeting, and had resolved to establish a wagon line to Terre Haute for transportation of freight at not higher rates than those charged by the railroad company, with the advantage to the customers in saving drayage charges at both ends of the line. Whether the wagon men were

successful in getting a considerable share of the traffic is not known, but it is certain that competition between the railroad and the wagon road would soon result in complete victory for the former.\*

In the election for representative for the legislature in 184—, the charge against the re-election of Benjamin Wolfe was made that he had voted to charter the E. and T. H. R. R. at the previous session, which had failed to pass; that if re-elected and the charter was granted, that the horses, now worth fifty to seventy-five dollars, would not be worth more than twenty-five or thirty. The issue failed. Mr. Wolfe was elected and the charter was granted.

For twenty years the county had the one railroad as the central commercial artery. Some time after the war arose discussion and agitation over the construction of what was known as an "east and west railroad," the principal terminal points of the proposed line being St. Louis and Cincinnati. The career of this east and west line has been a checkered one, and in its original construction it was an example of certain railroad enterprises which were projected in different sections of the country and nearly all of which were principally productive of expensive litigation and the unloading upon counties, townships and individuals of large obligations with a few miles of railroad to show for them.

The proposition was first brought to practical consideration by the voters of the county early in 1870, when a vote was taken on the matter of laying a tax of two dollars per hundred on all personal and real property of the county for the benefit of the projected railroad line. Anti-

\* "An increase of freight has justified the putting on of an extra train, so that we now have an accommodation train each way daily."—Democrat, April 10, 1862.



donation meetings were held at Carlisle and elsewhere, and when the election was held in April, only a little more than five hundred votes were cast in favor of the tax, and nearly 1,900 against it. Gill township voted for the tax and in Hamilton the vote was close, but elsewhere the people showed themselves unmistakably opposed to any such county subsidy.

The Cincinnati and St. Louis Straight Line Railroad was the name of the enterprise which received most support in the county. The year 1872 was fruitful of railroad projects, frequent election notices appearing in the *Democrat* of that year. Support for these undertakings was sought not only from the county as a whole but from the individual townships. Thus twenty-five freeholders of Fairbanks township petitioned that ten thousand dollars should be appropriated by the township to aid in the building of the Terre Haute and Southwestern, the appropriation to be invested in the stock of the railroad, and a condition of the appropriation was that the line should be built from the northern limit of the township to a point not further north than the Narrows. At the same time the Cincinnati and Terre Haute Railroad was asking aid from the county, to the amount of \$73,000 from the county, and at the same election Hamilton township and Cass and Gill townships were asked individually to contribute two dollars for each one hundred dollars of taxable property for the construction of the east and west railroad. The election was held February 12, and the county tax defeated by a large majority, but the three townships mentioned each voted the subsidy asked for by the C. & St. L. S. L.

In the following July the tax voted by the three townships was assessed and collected, at the rate of 60 cents on the hundred dollars.

For over two years nothing is heard of these railroad enterprises. In October, 1874, mention is made of a meeting held at the court house in the interest of the east and west railroad, and it is reported at the time that work was being pushed on the section between the I. & V. and Bloomfield. In November, 1874, a meeting of Cass township citizens was held in the Center schoolhouse to aid in making arrangements to secure the east and west railroad, and the committee appointed for that purpose consisted of William Bledsoe, Dan Case, Jefferson Alumbaugh, Thomas G. Neeley, Wiley Gambill, Flemmon Keen, and J. M. Stansil. In the following month the township voted a two per cent tax for the purpose.

In 1875 the east and west railroad made considerable progress. Those interested in the enterprise met at Sullivan in July, and at the time it was reported that a contract had been entered into for the construction of the entire line from the Wabash river to Bedford, the contractors being Buell, Clark and Company. The section from Switz City to I. & V. was to be completed by October 1st, and the rest of the line by July 1, 1876. In September Gill township gave a large majority in favor of a two per cent tax for this railroad, provided it was built on the specified route.

The work progressed slowly. In April, 1876, an item states that the narrow-gauge trains were to run into the Evansville and Crawfordsville depot, a third rail to be laid in the track for that purpose. But the first definite announcement of operation of trains to Sullivan by the new line was a paragraph in the *Democrat* of July 15, 1877: "The long expected locomotive of the narrow-gauge railroad arrived in town last Monday. It is a very handsome little engine, and is named the Joseph W. Wolfe.

Iron is on hand for track-laying, and a frog is to be put in on the track of the E. & T. H. at the junction."

Henceforth for many years the narrow-gauge line becomes a popular subject for the shafts of ridicule from the editor of the *Democrat*. One of the amusing arraignments appeared in an issue of July, 1877, when a bold leader announced a "Strike on the Narrow Gauge," the continuation being: "The following communication was handed to us by one of the committee with request for its publication. We hope the matter will be amicably adjusted without calling upon the president for troops. 'Mr. Joseph W. Wolfe, president. Sir: We, the undersigned, a regularly constituted committee of the employes, including engineers, firemen, brakemen, conductors and yard hands on your road, demand fifteen per cent advance on our wages, to take effect from and after July 24, 1877. If our modest request is not promptly complied with we will strike at 12 o'clock M. tonight. We have the assurance of a strong alliance and co-operation of the Crawford and Lockwood Bysickle What-is-it Line. Our language should not be construed as intimidating, but if our wages are not increased, we will tear up the track, ditch the engines, burn your round-house, pull up your piling and plant your road-bed in sweet potatoes, as productive industries must prevail if the railroads go under. An early reply is respectfully solicited.—John Flannagan, Buncomb O'Flint, John Stout, Child Fairweather, Bumpres Hobbs, committee.' " A little later it was reported that the strike had subsided without trouble.

A more serious review of the condition of this road appears in the issue of October 10, 1877: "The narrow-gauge road has failed again. We do not know how many times this has happened in the past two or

three years. A number of different contractors have taken hold of it, work to the amount of \$11,000 has been done in grading and pile-driving, ties have been furnished, a neat little locomotive is here but not paid for. J. W. Wolfe has guaranteed orders until he finds himself involved for considerable amounts. The last collapse is due to the refusal of the subscribers to the bonus to give their notes payable on completion of the road. The contractors evidently expected to get the subsidies before work was done."

In November of the same year a public meeting was held at Sullivan in the interest of the narrow gauge. A technical error by which the language of the election notice did not correspond with that of the petition threatened to invalidate the collection of the taxes voted two years before. Mr. Wolfe, the president of the enterprise, addressed the meeting, explaining the error and reviewing his work for the enterprise undertaken on his part without hope of personal benefit.

Early in January, 1878, it was announced that General Lyon and other citizens of Quincy, Illinois, had assumed the obligations of the road and had undertaken to complete the line so that cars would be running from the Wabash river to Linton by the first of July. The *Democrat* urged that all taxes and subscriptions should be paid at once.

It was the summer of 1880 before the county began receiving any benefit from this railroad. In July it was announced that the narrow gauge was making preparations for business, having already hauled considerable wheat from the east side of the county. Will Stark was appointed first agent at Sullivan. Early in August the first excursion to



Sullivan over this road was run on account of the Democratic mass meeting.

Another chapter in the history of the narrow gauge is told in the issue of the *Democrat* of February 1, 1882. Acting according to the directions of the court, Judge Black, who had been appointed receiver for the Cincinnati, Effingham & Quincy Construction Company, sold the assets of that corporation at the court-house door in Sullivan. The purchaser was John B. Lyon, the principal creditor of the bankrupt company. The assets brought considerably more than their appraised value. Among the assets were the subscriptions and the taxes voted in the different townships. Suits were brought for the collection of the taxes in Cass, Hamilton and Gill townships, and Gill township succeeded in evading the collection for some years.

Financial difficulties were not the only ones that assailed this railroad. In November, 1883, heavy rains caused floods that did great damage to all the railroads, but were specially disastrous to the narrow gauge, the road-bed and bridges in the river valley being entirely destroyed, and it was not until the following August that the track was built down to the river bank. The condition of the line is shown in some items in the *Democrat* that appeared in the spring of 1885. On one occasion, as the train was pulling into the station, about fifty feet of the track gave way, the engine, tender and a heavily loaded coal car crushed through the rotten ties, and was left embedded in the mud. A few days later another section of track gave way about a mile east of Sullivan, and three flat-cars were left in the mud. In the following summer it was stated that Mr. P. H. Blue had taken charge of the road and would put it in good

condition. In 1886 the general offices were moved to Sullivan, a bridge was constructed over the Wabash, and some additions were made to the rolling stock. The first train crossed the Wabash river in April. At this time the full title of the road had become the Indianapolis and Illinois Southern, though locally it was always referred to as the "narrow gauge." In June, 1886, the road was mortgaged to W. R. McKeen and John S. Alley, trustees, for half a million dollars, to secure a bond issue of that amount. A portion of the proceeds of these bonds were used for paying off matured bonds, while the remainder was to be devoted to the rehabilitation of road-bed and rolling stock. By the first of July, 1886, through trains began running over the line as far as Effingham.

A statement of the road's condition in October, 1887, enumerated between five hundred and six hundred employes, reported that the road had been made standard gauge as far as Palestine, and that the gauge would be uniform throughout to Effingham by the close of the year, that almost every bridge was new, that a new iron bridge was being constructed over the Embarrass river, and that a hundred new freight cars had been ordered.

Another stage in the tedious chronicles of this road was reached in January, 1890, when a foreclosure sale of the I. & I. S. R. R. was held, and the property was bid in by the first-mortgage holders. In August, 1892, as reported by the *Indianapolis News*, the board of state tax commissioners listened to a most pathetic tale concerning the helpless, hopeless poverty and bankruptcy of this road. John T. Hays of Sullivan was the pleader before the board in behalf of the I. & I. S. He reviewed its history as a narrow-gauge line, built by a construction company which

got all the stocks and bonds. The rails used were but thirty-five to forty pounds a yard and were second-hand at that, and yet since that iron was laid in 1880 less than ten miles of it has been replaced. The ties were for a narrow-gauge line, but were not changed when the gauge was broadened. The rails are, claimed the pleader, absolutely worn out, and not over 25 per cent of the ties can be used when the new track is laid, and the right of way is too narrow for a standard gauge. The only portion of ballasted track on the entire road is about half a mile near Sullivan. The length of the entire road in Indiana and Illinois is eighty-eight miles, and the total earnings for the past year were \$81,281, and the net earnings did not suffice to pay one cent of interest on the obligations. The four locomotives were bought second-hand from the Vandalia in 1887 at \$4,000 apiece. The rails are so small that the flanges of the engine and car wheels cut out channels in the rotten old ties, these grooves being a sort of protection, since they prevent the rails from spreading. The engines are in the ditch scores of times in a year, and some of the wheels are on the ground more days than not. At this point of Mr. Hays' speech, according to the version of the *Notes*, the blare of a brass band was heard, and all recognized its melody as "Listen to my tale of woe." The woful description was then continued by the Sullivan attorney, who said that the railroad shops consisted of a blacksmith shop, and that the one passenger coach was a survival of the narrow-gauge period, and its width had not been changed, and standard-gauge trucks had been placed underneath.

Not until the close of the decade did relief come to this much ridiculed railroad. In September, 1899, articles of incorporation were filed at the clerk's office for the Illinois & Eastern Railroad Company, which

was thought to be the final move in the purchase of the I. & I. S. by the Illinois Central, and in the following year the Indianapolis Southern and the Illinois and Indianapolis were consolidated under the former name, both being Illinois Central lines. In November, 1906, the line between Effingham and Indianapolis was finally completed, and service established between those cities.

In January, 1872, it was announced that passengers were carried without change from Sullivan to Chicago, over the E., T. H. & C. Up to that time this railroad had always been referred to as the Evansville & Crawfordsville, which was the original name, but about this time it assumed the title of Evansville and Terre Haute, which has since been borne by that portion of this line south of Terre Haute. The opening of the road to Chicago was regarded as of special advantage to the industrial interests of Sullivan county, as it undoubtedly was. It opened a direct trade for the coal mines, and stimulated that industry to a great development during the next few years.\*

The northeast quarter of Sullivan county is a network of railroad

\* The Democrat of August 6, 1903, gives the following historical outline of the E. & T. H. Railroad: It was chartered in 1847 as the Evansville & Wabash, being the third road built in the state. It was first intended to build the road from Evansville to Olney, Illinois, crossing the river at Mt. Carmel. The stockholders were Evansville people who took shares of fifty dollars each. Sam Hall was the first president. After ten miles of the road had been constructed, the route was changed with Vincennes as the objective point. Among the later presidents of the road were John Ingle and John Martin, and in 1882 D. J. Mackey was made president. Capt. G. J. Grammer became president in 1893, and during his term many extensive improvements were made. The consolidation of the road with the C. & E. I. under the Rock Island management occurred during the presidency of H. C. Barlow, who assumed the office in 1900.



lines which carry off the output of the coal mines. These short lines are all branches either of the E. & T. H. or of the Southern Indiana. The latter railroad, throughout its entire length, is essentially a coal road, and until recently has made no attempt to accommodate passenger traffic, and has done little business outside of handling the enormous coal tonnage which originates along its lines.

The main line extended southeast from Terre Haute to Linton and beyond, passing through only the northeast corner of this county. What was known as the Sullivan county branch was built from a point about a mile south of Jasonville. In May, 1901, its construction was said to be progressing rapidly. This branch resulted in the establishment of the railroad station of Gilmour, which was named for the superintendent of the Alum Cave mine. In January, 1900, it was reported in the paper that John R. Walsh had driven from Jasonville to Sullivan over the route of the proposed extension, and that it was definitely decided that the branch should be brought to Sullivan. Work on the Black Hawk-Sullivan extension was begun early in 1902, and at the same time the final scheme of the lines in this county was adopted, including a branch from Glendora to Shelburn, and thence northeast to the Sullivan extension. It was believed that these different roads would practically control the choice coal fields of this county.

The opening of passenger traffic over the Southern Indiana for Sullivan did not occur till the end of 1905. Trains began running on November 13th, though some trains had been running on the shorter branches

from Sullivan since the latter part of August. The route to Terre Haute by this line is about five miles longer than by the E. & T. H.

*Electric Railroads.*

At the meeting of the town board of Sullivan on December 11, 1902, four companies were heard with regard to franchises for electric lines. R. G. Haxton wanted a franchise for the Black Diamond Railroad, to connect Evansville and Indianapolis, via Sullivan. Parties in Sullivan asked for an interurban franchise, the Indiana Traction Company proposed to build a road from Vincennes to Terre Haute, and the Sullivan Light, Heat and Power Company protested against the granting of license for the time being, on the ground that they were considering a local street railway to operate in connection with any interurban lines. All the petitions were tabled. In the following January the Indiana Coal Belt Traction Company was incorporated to build a line from Sullivan to Linton, but the town of Sullivan refused to grant them a license in the following April. In June, 1903, the Sullivan town board granted franchises to the Indiana Coal Belt Traction Company and to the Western Indiana Traction Company, the latter being a Vincennes corporation. Both were given franchises for the use of certain streets for a period of fifty years, their lines to be completed by the end of May, 1908. Farmersburg also granted a franchise to the Western Indiana Company.

May 26, 1904, it was announced that a company backed by Chicago capital and known as the Terre Haute Southern Electric Company was given a franchise by the county commissioners, the line to run from Terre

Haute to Sullivan, Linton, Vincennes, Jasonville, Merom and intermediate points. The actual construction of an interurban line had not yet begun, though there was much discussion of the undertaking and the granting of franchises. Early in 1905 it was said that three electric lines were seeking entrance to Sullivan streets, and that in the competition for traffic the new Southern Indiana Railroad would also prove a formidable opponent of these interurban lines, since it proposed to run ten accommodation trains a day, with low fares.

In the spring of 1905 the Terre Haute Traction & Light Company made public their plans to build an interurban line to Sullivan, and early in April the company began actual work along the route of survey south of Terre Haute. In October of that year the Sullivan town board granted the company privilege of constructing tracks on either Court, Section, State or Broad streets, for a period of twenty-five years, for a consideration of \$1,000. Shelburn had granted the franchise free, and Farmersburg received five hundred dollars for the grant. Work of construction continued during 1905 and through the spring of 1906, and the first interurban car running on a regular schedule left the public square at Sullivan on June 24, 1906, at 7 a. m. A large crowd of passengers took this first ride. A majority of the local passenger traffic between Sullivan and Terre Haute is now cared for by the interurban line.

In the spring of 1907 the Terre Haute and Merom Traction Company was formed, and a line surveyed for an interurban road from Terre Haute through Prairietown, Middletown, Fairbanks, Staffordshire, Scott City and Merom. At the November election of the same year the proposition of granting a subsidy to this company was submitted to the voters

of the townships through which the road would pass. It indicates the emphatic attitude of the people on this subject as contrasted with their sentiments and actions of thirty or forty years ago that all the townships defeated the movement by heavy majorities. During 1908 some work was done along the proposed route, but the original company went into a receivership in May, and at this writing the townships of Fairbanks and Turman are still without transportation facilities.

*Chronological Notes.*

Feb. 28, 1872—Meeting called to consider proposition from the Terre Haute and Cincinnati R. R. Co. to run their road through Carlisle provided a two per cent tax is raised. The meeting unanimously in favor.

June 26, 1872—Terre Haute and Southwestern will cross the Wabash at Chenoweth's ferry. Cross ties already contracted for.

Sept. 10, 1873—A branch railroad to be built from the E. & T. H. from Shelburn to the coal fields in Jackson township.

Sept. 2, 1874—The railroad company is planning to move the Sullivan depot either three-quarters of a mile north or south of present location.

March 21, 1876—The Indianapolis and Sullivan Narrow Gauge Coal Railroad has been organized.

August 28, 1888—A strike of engineers on the E. & T. H., but the trouble was settled by restoring two men who had been discharged.

Nov. 5, 1889—The St. Louis, Indianapolis & Eastern Railroad incorporated. First directors, P. H. Blue, C. P. Walker, F. E. Basler, J. T. Hays, S. R. Engle, C. R. Hinkle, John Giles.



## CHAPTER IX.

### THE TOWN OF SULLIVAN.

The town of Sullivan was founded as the result of the selection of the site as the county seat, and in this respect was a made-to-order town. Members of the Walls family had entered the land in this vicinity only about three years before the site was chosen by the county commissioners, so that the place now occupied by the court-house square and all the surrounding ground was little changed from its state of virgin wilderness.

William Reed, Samuel Brodie and Abraham F. Snapp were the county commissioners who selected the site. They were free to exercise their own discretion in the matter of selection, provided their choice was fixed upon a place for the court house within a mile and a half of the geographical center of the county. The comparatively high ground between Buck creek and Busseron on which they determined to locate the seat of justice would appear to have been the most eligible place within those limits.

It is an interesting fact, and one that is confirmed by numerous bits of evidence throughout this history, that the site of the central portion of Sullivan was formerly wet and swampy notwithstanding the slope toward

the beds of the creeks on either side. It is said that in 1843 water sometimes stood to a depth of two feet on the court house square.\*

The townsite was deeded to the county agent (who was the legal agent for the transaction of the business connected with the establishment of the seat of justice), to be divided into town lots, and such as were not reserved for official purposes were to be sold. Of the proceeds, one-sixth was to be given to the former owner of the land, that being a condition of the deed, and the balance was to be used for the erection of a court house and other purposes connected with the county seat.

The survey of the original site was completed May 25, 1842, and the first sale of lots occurred the following day. The thirty-five lots sold on that day brought prices ranging from \$20 to \$100 apiece. The original plat of Sullivan was four blocks square. On the north it was bounded by Beech street, on the east by Broad, on the south by Harris, and on the west by Section. From north to south the streets were Beech, Wall, Washington, Jackson, Harris; from east to west they were, Broad, State, Main, Court and Section. Altogether there were 136 lots in the plat.

In 1842 it is said that the principal houses of the new town were the log dwellings of Hugh S. Orr, Mason F. Buchanan, George Smith and Squire McDonald and a little blacksmith shop owned by the first named.†

\* The Democrat (July 31, 1885,) reported that in digging a cistern on the northwest corner of the square, about three feet below the surface the workmen found the stump of a small tree, and when it was removed a vein of water was discovered which was believed to flow from a spring which about forty years before had been situated about where Julius Hatry's store stands. It was thought that the stump was of a swamp willow, many of which once grew on the ground now covered by the business houses of the town.

† "Hugh Orr, who bought the first lot in the sale of town lots 23 years ago, is moving to Greene county. His smithy, the oldest building in town, will soon be gone." (Democrat, April 5, 1866.) Hugh S. Orr died May 19, 1873.

After the removal of the county records to Sullivan and the building of the first court house, this soon became a center of business and residence. A description of the village in 1848 mentions a number of well-known citizens of the county and town. On Section street in that year were some one-story frame houses occupied by James C. Allen, then a young lawyer but later congressman from Illinois; John H. Wilson, who was sheriff of the county at the time the county seat was moved from Merom; James W. Hinkle, who had just moved to town and was teaching school; and Drs. John E. Lloyd and James H. and D. B. Weir, also Elias Albertson, John Bridwell and A. J. Thixton. Joseph Gray was one of the few residents of that time who lived in a two-story house. On the corner of Section and Washington streets was Howard's tavern stand, which the proprietor had enlarged to two stories, and of which Washington Lilley became proprietor about this time.\* Another two-story frame hotel, owned by John R. Mahan, stood on Court street near the corner of the square. On Washington street near the northwest corner of the square were two small store buildings which had been built by Major Stewart of lumber sawed by whip-saw. Maj. Isaac Stewart, Dr. William M. Crowder and James H. Reed also had their dwellings on Washington street. Daniel Turner and F. C. Freeman (a cabinetmaker) were among the few who then lived on the south side of the square. The village was better supplied with physicians at that time than with merchants, artisans or lawyers. James, Samuel and John J. Thompson were practicing here in addition to those already mentioned.

\* In 1855 this was called the Railroad House, and J. P. Duffey was proprietor.

For a number of years the affairs of the county seat were conducted in the quiet manner which leaves little record on the page of history. Considerable business was done by the early merchants, who had their small shops around the square and brought their stocks of merchandise overland from Louisville or from some of the river ports. The county officials for the most part lived in the village, and the court sessions and the annual payment of taxes brought a large part of the population of the county into town at least once a year. The county seat was a natural focus of interest during political campaigns. In 1843 James Whitcomb, then candidate for governor, made a speech in Sullivan, which was the first of many successive occasions at which the people have congregated from different parts of the county to listen to political oratory. Besides the social activities that centered around the churches, there were special occasions that brought the people together in social pleasures, and at the homes of the principal families of that day there reigned a hospitality and cheerful ease that compensated for many of the inconveniences that would seem intolerable in this twentieth century.

#### *Municipal Growth.*

Altogether it was a period of individualism, softened by the firm adherence to justice and the general spirit of kindly neighborliness which characterized the people of the time. The churches, the schools, and the county institutions themselves were products of the instincts and habits of a people who had always been accustomed to the forms and usages of self-government. But the citizenship of Sullivan had not yet advanced far in those activities of a social community which characterize



the well organized and highly efficient town government. The growth and improvement of Sullivan as a town corporation may be observed with profit by those who desire to understand the development of municipal affairs.\*

It will be understood that for a number of years after the founding of the town there existed practically no regulations upon the peaceful vocations of the citizens. People lived in town and experienced no more responsibilities and likewise few more conveniences than the rural inhabitants. The streets were not different from the highroads through the country, except that increased travel upon them made them more nearly impassable. For many years there were no sidewalks, except the paths on the sides of the streets, and here and there a few boards or some gravel or cinders to keep the feet from burying in the mud. The ragged gleams of an old-fashioned lantern or torch, carried in the hands of those

\* Sullivan was incorporated as a town government December 8, 1853, by act of the county commissioners, who at that date were William Beard, Levi Maxwell and Jacob Hoke. The population within the corporation limits at that time were enumerated as 350, and the signers of the petition for incorporation, which was dated August 20, 1853, were the following, who may be considered in the light of charter citizens: John J. Thompson, H. S. Hanchett, Robert M. Griffith, John Richards, James Martin, John Bridwell, William C. McBride, Elias Walls, H. S. Orr, Alfred Turner, Alex Talley, William P. Hale, James McKinley, John T. Turner, Thomas J. Carey, John T. Gunn, William E. Catlin, B. Hasselback, William Wilson, Chester O. Davis, James W. Hinkle, John Eaton, James H. Chase, Craven Reed, S. O. Reed, G. W. A. Luzader, C. W. Eaton, Squire McDonald, John B. Hughs, M. E. Chace, James H. Reid, B. C. Sherman, Pleast. Miller, E. Bowyer, Alex. Snow, Daniel Brickey, John S. Davis, Milburn Reed, Eli Shepherd, Andrew Turner, S. Nichols, J. P. S. Reed, W. N. Humphreys, B. V. Wible, Benjamin Stice, W. B. Ogle, A. McIntosh, G. W. Hanchett, W. Griffith, Isaac Copeland, John E. Lloyd, M. Kirkham, William R. Benton, Isaac Stewart, L. H. S. Orr, James McIntosh, B. H. McGrew.

whom business or pleasure led abroad at night, were the only illumination out of doors. The town pump in the public square and the wells and cisterns in private homes were the only sources of water supply. The slops and garbage were disposed of after the fashion of each individual home, and while each citizen had ample space about his doors it was not a matter of grave concern whether his home and premises were strictly sanitary.

But in time, as population increased and as the sense of responsibility of the individual to the community grew, all these matters began to receive attention, and it is a subject of considerable interest to trace the gradual evolution of the present municipality through the many stages of public sentiment and custom.

One of the earliest references to be found concerning the municipal condition of the town is contained in the issue of the Democrat for November 24, 1864, and pertains especially to the town burying ground (which was still in the town limits). The citizens were accused of a most lamentable deficiency in public spirit. "Our graveyard (though the public commons in which our dead are interred does not merit the name) has never been enclosed; hogs wallow above the neglected graves; cattle roam through it and eat off what little shrubbery the hands of affection have planted there; no care is taken to protect the stones and monuments from defacement, and the graves are huddled together without order and in utter confusion." A few citizens had made repeated efforts to convene the public and get some action on the matter, but so far without success.

The sidewalks were also declared to be a matter of reproach to the

town. A year or two ago, said the editor, a few temporary plank walks had been constructed on several leading thoroughfares, but they were imperfectly made at first and have now become almost worthless. The schoolhouse was called "a complete old rookery," which had never been suitably arranged and had now become almost worthless.

The next items that are found relating to the status of the town are more optimistic. A letter that was quoted under date of December, 1864, vaunted the population of Sullivan to be about 3,000, and summarized its business as comprising the well filled stores of eleven merchants, three jewelry shops, two merchant tailors, mechanics of all kinds, three hotels, one flouring mill, sawmill and woolen factory and a steam stave and heading factory. In October, 1865, the editor finds the sidewalks and streets to have been put in good order, and a new fence had been built around the court house. It is stated that the town officials have determined that there shall be an equal number of schoolhouses and churches, but the saloon-keepers, not to be outdone in this regard, have called for two more saloons, so that there might be four churches, four schoolhouses and eight saloons.

At a meeting of the town board June 5, 1866, A. F. Estabrook was employed as town engineer to survey and fix the uniform grade of the streets. Work on the streets had hitherto been done under the direction of the supervisors, and the same amount required of each poll. Now it was proposed to put a commissioner in charge and to tax the inhabitants for street maintenance according to their property values. Evidently the year following the close of the war witnessed considerable improvement of the streets. In October, 1866, it was stated that within the pre-

vious three months about 4,000 feet of plank walks, four feet wide and uniform in appearance and grade, had been constructed, and that on the business streets 2,500 square yards of brick pavement had been laid. A short time before the sidewalks to the railroad station had been completed.

Some new phases of the street improvement question appear to have arisen during the seventies. A paragraph in August, 1878, calls attention to the fact that a few days before some hogs had been turned into the court house yard to act as scavengers in cleaning up the large quantity of decaying rinds and remnants of melons with which the ground was littered. A few months later public sentiment seems to have been aroused against the running at large of hogs. In June, 1880, the Democrat estimates that not less than five hundred hogs were running loose in town without rings in their noses, contrary to the ordinances in such cases. A little earlier in the year a doubt had been expressed whether the town council had the power to prevent by ordinance hogs at large. Their ordinance required that hogs at large should have rings in the nose, but provided no penalty of impounding for animals without the rings. So far as regarded the littering of the court yard with melon rinds, the council imposed a fine of five dollars for eating melons in the square, which proved effectual.

Cows shared the privileges of the public streets with hogs. The ordinance prohibiting cows running at large was unpopular with many, and in March, 1882, the board was asked to repeal it. There was much discussion of this matter during the following summer, but the ordinance seems to have fallen into desuetude since during the winter months complaints were heard from the farmers who had made their wagons and



sleds comfortable with linings of straw that during their absence in the stores stray cows browsed along the line of vehicles and stripped them of all their forage contents. The cows and hogs continued to have their freedom for a year or more, until in July, 1885, a stock ordinance was passed and a pound was built on the north side of the engine house, after which the subject of strays ceases to attract attention.

The first attempt to sprinkle the streets of Sullivan seems to have been made during the very dry summer of 1864, when the merchants around the square tried to use some sort of sprinkler for that purpose, though the scarcity of water rendered the effort almost futile. No evidence of street sprinkling is found until the summer of 1879, when an item states that a machine was to be started by Gilbert Bond.

One of the first subjects to demand the attention of a town community is facilities for fighting fire. Fire being the greatest destructive agency that threatens property, it is naturally the first to be guarded against. In fact, public sanitation and comfort generally receive attention only after a community has advanced far in civic importance, but a fire department of some sort is always among the first institutions. In a rural community fire brings loss to but one individual, but the business interests of a town require that buildings shall be placed on adjacent lots, so that a fire at one point endangers the entire adjoining neighborhood. Thus it is to the interest of the entire town that a fire be extinguished quickly, and for that purpose organization and discipline become necessary. In the early stages of a town's growth this organization is usually voluntary, and though the spirit of willingness is seldom absent, effectiveness is sometimes sacrificed.

Thus during the first years of Sullivan's existence, a fire brought the citizens together with buckets, which were used to carry water from the nearest well. A fire well started could seldom be quenched by such methods, and it was fortunate if the blaze could be kept from spreading.

Sullivan has a long record of destructive fires, and the organization and equipment for fire fighting have never seemed to be adequate for the occasion. No account can be given of the earlier efforts at co-operation in preventing fires, and aside from the purchase of a few ladders and other supplies of a primitive sort there was no organized system in the town until within comparatively recent years. In January, 1870, a meeting was held at the court house, presided over by Lafayette Stewart, for the organization of a hook and ladder company, but the movement did not succeed. A paragraph in the Democrat in 1879 says: "The damage to the Van Fossen and Hunt property, both burned recently, is enough to purchase the best hook and ladder apparatus in the state." The ladders that had formerly been purchased were lost.

In January, 1882, a petition was circulated, asking the town board to issue bonds to the amount of \$7,000 for the purchase of a fire engine and other apparatus, to build cisterns, and to purchase property in which to keep the apparatus and the street tools. The purchase of some hose and a building on Main street during the following summer shows that the agitation had resulted in some good. The hand engine which was ordered, however, was refused by the town board in April, 1883, and it is probable that the town continued without apparatus for a year or two longer. In June, 1885, the board paid five hundred dollars for a lot west of the McCammon Hotel (which is still the site of the engine house). An issue

of bonds (\$6,000) had been ordered, and were sold to a Sullivan County bank at a premium after the council had provided that interest on them should be paid semi-annually. The next month, plans and specifications for the engine house and city hall, as prepared by Kent Coulson, were accepted by the council, and a contract let to Hoke & Co. for the building at \$1,942. The contract for building fire cisterns was awarded to Ben Hubbard, who began digging them at the corners of the square. About the same time a hand engine arrived, and a steamer was ordered from Cincinnati (\$2,650). It was guaranteed that twelve men could pull the engine without difficulty, that it could pump fourteen barrels a minute. Two hose carts and 1,200 feet of hose were also bought. On August 31st the town board selected Elliott Hamill for chief of the fire department. Ben Briggs was chosen captain of the fire company and Charles Crawley first lieutenant, while John Glass became foreman of the hook and ladder. January 12, 1886, is chronicled the arrival of the first steam fire engine in Sullivan. Ed Devol was chosen engineer.

Little improvements were made in the town fire department from this time until the building of the water works. The establishment of water works is a notable event in the history of every town. While a center of population consists of little more than a collection of individual homes and the stores, churches and schoolhouses, every detached dwelling may have its well, and the town pump affords a general supply. While people live without crowding, after the manner of a village, there is slight danger of contagious disease, and sanitation is left largely to individual care. But as population increases and concentrates, there comes the necessity to take more and more the care of these details from the individuals and

entrust them to the collective management of the community. This is done for the better health, the greater convenience and comfort, and, in the end, the superior economy of all who live in the community.

October 29, 1895, a petition of more than a hundred Sullivan taxpayers was filed, asking for an election to take the sense of the town on the subject of increasing the municipal debt for the purpose of establishing water works. The following November 22d the citizens voted on this question, casting 267 votes for and 197 votes against the proposition. Early in the following year a civil engineer was employed to prepare plans, which were adopted by the council on the 18th of March. In May supplementary specifications were adopted for the dam across the Busseron, and on June 4th the council entered into a contract with the Howe Pump and Engine Company for the construction of the plant. The latter undertook to construct a complete system of water works according to the plans, to hold the town harmless from all damages in case of overflow, to procure the consent of the county commissioners to dam the Busseron. The contract also provided for the formation of a water company, to procure all real estate, right of way, and to purchase and pay for all material to the amount of \$18,000, as specified, and to issue bonds to the amount of \$18,000 on the property and franchises, and eventually all the property of the water company was to be conveyed to the town of Sullivan and also all the company's stock fully paid up. For the establishment of water works, the town board issued bonds to the amount of \$22,000, with interest at five per cent payable semiannually.

Under this contract the company at once began the work of construction. In August, 1896, the Democrat reported the failure of the



Howe Pump Company, through a "flattening out" of the market for municipal bonds, of which the company had a large amount on hand, and the work was suspended for some time, leaving the streets in a damaged condition. The plant was finally completed, the total cost being \$41,857.61. The cost was more than the constitutional limit of municipal indebtedness allowed, and it was for the purpose of evading this limitation that a private company was organized, known as the Sullivan Water Works Company, which took title to the property and franchises and gave a mortgage on the system for \$18,000.

In a few years the water works were found to be inadequate, and the supply was insufficient and of poor quality. In 1901 private capitalists offered to buy the municipal plant and assume the bonded debt, promising to furnish an ample supply of pure water. The town found that it was operating the plant at a loss of one thousand dollars yearly. Various proposals have been made within the past few years by private companies to buy the plant and supplement the supply either by wells or by bringing water from the Wabash. In the winter of 1902-03 the town sunk a well which it was estimated yielded about 350 gallons a minute, but this was insufficient. In 1905, the Commercial Club offered a solution of the problem. It organized the Sullivan Water Works Co., which was to assume the franchises, property and debts of the municipal plant, in return for which the town should retain a controlling share of the stock of the company. Much enthusiasm was aroused over this enterprise, and the Commercial Club undertook, with much energy, to carry out the details of the plan. However, the test wells at New Lebanon and elsewhere, which were expected to furnish the water supply, proved dis-

appointing, and the decision of the supreme court, early in January, 1906, that the mortgage on the water plant constituted a part of the town indebtedness, blocked the way for all the improvements planned by the town board. The available credit as a result of the decision was reduced to \$12,500 instead of \$25,000, upon which basis the board had proposed the improvements.

At this writing the water works problem is still before the people of Sullivan. During the drouth of 1908 only the most stringent regulations of the use of city water maintained a sufficient quantity of water in the standpipe to afford fire protection. This failure of the system, however, cannot be charged entirely to the plant, since the severity of the season was such that few towns in the state escaped water famine.

Until about twenty years ago, the streets of Sullivan were as dark as the highways of the country. An item dated in August, 1883, records the failure of an effort to induce the business men to procure lamps to light the streets in front of their stores, but only two firms adopted the suggestion.

Early in 1888 the lighting of the streets began to receive more serious consideration. By that time electricity had become popular as a source of municipal lighting, and it is of interest that Sullivan was among the most progressive towns of the state to use this kind of lights. In April of this year a local company contracted with the town board to supply thirty lights for the streets, at \$208.33 per month, and in the following July the company arranged for the construction of the power house on the west side of Court street, near the mill pond. The plant was completed, the dynamos installed, and on October 8th a public test of the lights was

made, which took the form of a celebration, large crowds of people gathering on the streets, entertained by music from the Sullivan band, and with speeches delivered from the band stand by Judge Buff, John S. Bays, John T. Hays, and John T. Beasley. The electric light company had not carried out its contract without considerable opposition. After the contract had been made between the company and the town board, suit was commenced to enjoin the town treasurer from collecting the tax. Meantime the company had bought its plant, commenced building the engine house, putting up poles. When Crowder and McCammon forbade the company to dig holes in the pavement near the bank and hotel, the company replied by seeking an injunction to prevent these parties filling up the holes, etc.

The contract between the company and town expired at the end of 1893, and in anticipation of a renewal of the contract a new company was formed and erected a plant to supply the town with arc lights for street lighting. The new company offered thirty arc lights to the town for \$50 each, which was a saving of over thirty dollars per lamp over the former price. The plant was completed and a test of the lights made in April, 1894. Two months later the new company had failed, the engine and equipment being replevined by the firms which had installed them. The town could not agree with the old company on satisfactory terms for arc lights, and in September contracted with Noah Crawford to furnish lights at \$63 each, the contract to run seven years, including the remaining four years of the contract with Mr. Cluggage, of the company which had failed. In May, 1901, the Sullivan Light, Heat and Power Company purchased the Citizens Electric Light and Power Company, which was the company

owned and controlled by Mr. Crawford, the consideration being \$10,000. Both companies had continued in competition until that time, but the plants were now consolidated. In April, 1907, Michael McMonan, of Sullivan, and C. R. McGaughey, of Brazil, purchased the electric light plant, and after operating it for less than a year, on petition of William F. Poole, the plant was put into receivership in February, 1908.

### *Sullivan Schools.*

The old county seminary was a central institution of the school system at Sullivan for many years, and the building was used for the town schools long after it was sold by the county authorities. The public funds were insufficient to support free schools more than three or four months each year, and during the remaining months of the year some teacher would usually conduct a private school. Mrs. Jane Booth was one of the teachers of the fifties and sixties who taught both public and private schools. For the fall term of public school in 1864 Mrs. Booth was chosen principal; Miss Lizzie Moore, first assistant; Miss Dora Brouillette, second assistant, and Miss Laura Parks, primary.

The seminary building was hardly habitable at the close of the war, and there was not enough money to pay for repairs and the maintenance of school, too. Yet the district was unable to provide better accommodations for several years. The seminary building was last used during the year 1871-72, when a free school of seven months was taught, with 434 pupils enrolled, and one principal and five assistants.

In 1872 school was first taught in the new building. That year was also notable for the removal of Professor Crawford's seminary from



Farmersburg to Sullivan. The public schools and the normal department were conducted together for several years, but this arrangement, although it brought a large number of students here from out of town, proved a burden upon the common schools, and the partnership between Ascension Seminary and the public schools was dissolved.

O. J. Craig was selected as superintendent of the schools in 1880, and for the first time in the history of the town there was promise of sufficient funds to continue the public schools for nine months. In May, 1882, the first class was graduated from the Sullivan high school, consisting of James R. Riggs, Addison E. McEneny and C. R. Hinkle.

The school accommodations became very inadequate during the decade of the nineties. In May, 1901, the citizens defeated by a vote of 327 to 297 a proposition to issue \$20,000 in bonds for the building of a new schoolhouse. But in January, 1904, an overwhelming majority was given in favor of the erection of a high school building, and in the following September the cornerstone of this building was laid. Sullivan now has excellent school buildings, both ward and high school.

#### *Sullivan Landmarks.*

By the processes of time, decay and fire and ruin, our American towns quickly cover up the past, and in Sullivan it is hardly possible to find any buildings that bear the dignified marks of old age. The court house itself is the oldest building of any note, having stood at the center of the square for more than a half century.

In December, 1878, fire destroyed the old National House, about which many of the early associations of visitors to Sullivan gathered. It

had been in existence since shortly after the founding of the town, and had known various proprietors, Squire Van Fossen being the last.

The Hotel McCammon, which was recently burned, was of much later date than the National. It is stated that at the formal opening of this hotel, February 14, 1882, nearly all the business men and leading citizens of town were invited to a sumptuous dinner.

The two-story building on the east side of the square, with its double balconies, was built by Dr. Coffman in 1897, an old frame building being removed from the site.

The Davis House, which is the most modern hotel of the town, was built by the Davis brothers, the plans being accepted in the summer of 1897 and construction work begun shortly afterwards. Its ground dimensions were 90 by 35 feet, and it was designed to have 48 sleeping rooms on the second and third floors. The front is of stone and pressed brick.

The business block on the south side of the square, which was subject to the ravages of the fire of January, 1909, was built more than thirty-five years before. The laying of the foundation of this block, according to an item of September, 1873, was commemorated with a salute of thirteen guns, one for each business house in the row. The salute was in charge of Colonel McBride, chief of the local artillery corps.

To those who have been familiar with the growth of buildings about the square, the following paragraph from the Democrat of May 13, 1884, will prove of some interest: The store room now occupied by T. K. Sherman & Son was the first brick business house in Sullivan. It was built by William Wilson. It has been remodeled for its present purposes,

large plate glass windows put in, vestibules and side lights, and handsome walnut doors.

The passing of another landmark drew forth the following comment from Mr. Briggs in the issue of June 28, 1876: The old tavern on the corner of Section and Washington streets is being torn down, the present proprietor, James B. Patten, intending to remodel the main building and to move off the attachments. At an early day this locality was a focus of business and trade. Mr. Gray had a store house on the opposite corner, and John Bridwell a store on the west side of Section street, while the Bamberger store was on the corner south. When we first knew the tavern Mr. Dufficy was proprietor, and it was then in its palmy days. Afterwards it passed into the hands of Maguire, who opened a bar in the office, and later Squire Van Fossen conducted it semi-occasionally until within the last few years, when it failed to pay.

This corner was visited by fire in September, 1884, resulting in the destruction of the old house on the southwest corner and the warehouse of Crawley and McKinley. "If there was an older house in town than the two burned last Saturday night, we don't know where they are," remarked the *Democrat*. "Thirty years ago the dwelling was occupied by John S. Howard. The other was erected by the late Joseph Gray for a store house, and upstairs was located the *Democrat* office for the first two or three years of its existence."\*

\* Referring to the time when the *Democrat* was publishing in this old building, in an issue of 1890 the proprietor of the paper mentioned the use of the Washington hand press for printing, and said that copy for the paper was sometimes cut from an almanac. Mail was still carried on horseback from Merom, there were no sidewalks in town, and a polished boot or shoe was rarely seen. Except the courthouse, there were only two or three brick houses in the place.

For over fifty years Barnett Saucerman followed the trade of gunsmith in Sullivan, and hunters came from miles around, bringing him their defective or broken firearms. With the tearing down of his old shop at the corner of Broad and Beech streets, in the summer of 1901, passed a landmark that had stood for nearly forty years. A few days before the old shop was knocked to pieces the venerable gunsmith was photographed at the door of the shop, having a trusty old rifle on his knees. The proprietor of the gunshop died June 27, 1902, at the age of eighty-one. He was a native of Coshocton county, Ohio, had learned his trade as a boy, and came to Sullivan county in 1847, his first home being on a farm near Abbey Mill in Cass township. He served in the 85th Indiana Infantry, and was with Sherman's army in the campaign to the sea.

*Chronology of Sullivan Fires in Recent Years.*

April, 1885—Fire destroyed the Masonic building, corner of Main and Washington, and so quickly that the records of the lodge on the third floor could not be saved. The town was still without fire protection. The loss was between \$30,000 and \$40,000, the Times office, the American House, and the Calvin Taylor law library being among the list of damage and ruin.

September 12, 1886—Livery stables of Lucas, Russell & Joyce, at rear of brick building on the north side of the square, burned. Other attempts to start fires indicated incendiarism.

October 1, 1886—Burning of two frame buildings at the south end of the west side of the square causes talk of establishment of fire zone.



October 29, 1886—Fire destroyed Johnson's photo gallery on north side of square. October 31—Crowder's hay press and a barn at rear of buildings on the west side of the square burned.

January 11, 1887—South side corner of Court and Jackson streets ruined by fire. July 5—Planing mill of Hoke & Co. burned; loss, \$7,000 to \$10,000.

December 14, 1889—Bauer & Son's flouring mill, near depot, burned, total loss being \$18,000 to \$20,000.

September 25, 1891—In early morning fire broke out in Leach warehouse, near E. & T. H. depot, extended across right of way to freight depot, north to warehouse owned by P. R. Jenkins and Miss Jennie Thornhill, south to the Snow warehouse, and two box cars burned. Total loss about \$20,000, with only \$3,000 insurance.

February 10, 1892—Sawmill of Mahley and Co. burned, after being in operation two years. February 26—Stivers and Bland pork packing house burned, at a loss of several thousand dollars.

August 12, 1892—The Sullivan expert fire company disbands after seven years' existence. The members have always responded promptly to fire arms, even going beyond the city limits. Dissatisfaction because of failure to remit their taxes as provided by law.

November 23, 1899—Jacob Mahley's sawmill burned; total loss, \$10,000.

October 21, 1906—National Bank building damaged by fire to extent of several thousand dollars.

August 13, 1908—The McCammon Hotel, on the corner of Washington and State, gutted by a fire that burned for four hours, leaving all

of third and most of second and first stories in ruins. Loss on building, \$12,000; to the proprietor, Mrs. Hinkle, \$4,000.

September 9, 1908—Fire of unknown origin, beginning in the livery barn of J. Ed. Blume, on South Main street, destroyed the livery stable; loss \$2,000, insurance \$2,000. The Colonnade Theater, loss \$14,000, insurance, \$8,000; Baptist parsonage, loss \$2,200, insurance, \$1,600; J. B. Mullane's hardware and furniture store, loss \$4,600, covered by insurance; F. M. Douthitt clothing store, loss \$8,000, insurance \$4,000; Central store, loss \$4,000, covered by insurance. Total amount of property destroyed was about \$40,000. The severe drouth of this season and limited water supply accounts for the destructiveness of this fire.

January 31, 1909—Fire starts in Herman Schmidt & Co.'s hardware store from stove or crossed wires. The water plugs were frozen, much time lost in getting them to work, and a strong northeast wind carried the fire on until property to the value of more than one hundred and fifty thousand dollars was consumed. The detail loss was: J. B. Mullane, \$30,000 stock, \$15,000 building; Central Store Co., \$25,000 stock; Ben Davis and Joe K. Smock, \$12,000 building; F. M. Douthitt, \$16,000; C. H. Edwards, building, \$5,000; Herman Schmidt, \$8,000 stock; Ella Dix, \$4,000; Herschel Ford, \$4,000 stock, building owned by local company, loss \$4,000; Leonard & Goodman, \$4,000 stock, \$4,000 buildings; Reed and Batey, \$4,000 stock; Dale and Son, \$2,000 stock; Sullivan Light & Heat Co., \$4,500 fixtures and equipments. Insurance carried amounted to about \$52,000.

*Public Improvements and Growth.*

November 3, 1864—Sidewalk mania is prevailing to an alarming extent. Almost every individual you meet has a subscription for the construction of a plank walk out his street. The most important one projected is to reach to the depot and will cost \$500.

March 23, 1865—There has never before been such a demand for houses to rent, not only dwellings, but business houses, shops, etc.

February 3, 1875—J. C. Briggs petitions for continuance of Harris street west, and R. H. Crowder for a new street between his lot and Charles F. Briggs', due north to a point west of Jackson street, thence east to west end of Jackson. (These are the streets that meet at the library).

August 6, 1879—Court house has no janitor. The sheriff is employed to clean up the court room previous to each term of court, but it becomes foul before the term ends and thus remains until the succeeding term. September 15—Bill Joyce enters upon duties as janitor.

May 5, 1880—Contract awarded for excavating, grading, slagging and graveling the streets around the square.

June 29, 1883—Most exciting case in court last week was damage suit of John Fordyce against town for opening Harris street west; was awarded \$373 damages.

July 17, 1883—Nice brick sidewalks have been put down on Court street, south from the square.

October 12, 1883—Town board has ordered sidewalks on the east side of Broad street and the south side of Gray to the depot. The property owners on West Washington street have presented a petition agreeing to grade and slag that street next spring if the board will rescind order for sidewalks. A petition generally signed by property owners in the southeast part of town states that Broad street is simply a deep ravine and receptacle for all kinds of rubbish.

July 4, 1884—The town has undertaken to put in tile along the

streets where property owners pay cost of the material. (This order rescinded August 15).

September 26, 1884—Trouble arises over the order of the board to widen the south end of Court street. The town marshal in pursuance of an order from the town board proceeded to remove the fences which obstructed the widening. One woman whose grounds were exposed by this action penned up all the stock that trespassed on them, and among other strays thus taken in were some hogs belonging to one of the town trustees. (The case got into the courts, and by change of venue went first to Greene and then to Knox county, and was eventually compromised except with one party).

April 24, 1885—West Washington street, after many vexing delays, has been graded and graveled. The residents along the street are grading the space between the sidewalks and the street, and are sowing it with grass seed. The effort will not prove successful if cows and hogs continue to roam the streets.

July 1, 1887—County commissioners have contracted for stone walks from the court house to each entrance of the park, to be of sawed Bedford stone.

November 18, 1887—Contract let for sewer on Broad street from Washington street to a point south of the I. & I. S. R. R. To be built jointly by town and county, at a cost of about \$4,000. The county is taking part in order to secure drainage for the jail, injunction proceedings having been begun to restrain the emptying of sewage on a near-by lot.

August 30, 1888—The grading of Main street preparatory to graveling begun.

September 9, 1890—Town board has an engineer employed to straighten boundary lines of streets in east part of town. There is some antagonism from men whose fences must be removed, but fences are useless and unsightly since cattle have been kept off the streets.

February 13, 1891—Misfortunes of town in way of damage



suits have aroused the trustees, and the marshal is now ordered to inspect crossings and streets once a week.

March 13, 1891—The town board has ordered the improvement of Court street, the engineer being ordered to survey and establish the grade and a committee being appointed to determine the style in which the work will be done. March 31—Town board and committee decide to pave Court street with brick, contrary to the wishes of the property owners, who want gravel.

April 10, 1891—Bids were received by the town board on April 10 for the extension of the Broad street sewer. The sewer was made necessary by threats of the property owners south of the woolen mill to sue the factory owners for allowing the waste to run down the ravine.

August 4, 1891—The town board has let the contract for graveling the streets in the southwest part of town—Jackson from Court to Crowder, Crowder street, and Johnson street from Crowder to Bell. August 18—Brick walks ordered on the south side of Jackson street, both sides of Crowder street, and both sides of Johnson, west from the intersection of Crowder. December 15—Graveling of Thompson street and brick walks ordered.

May 24, 1892—Contracts let for grading and graveling Court street. June 28—Contract let for graveling from head of Main street to depot.

August, 1894—Contract let for graveling North Court and Thompson streets. Thanks to energy and management of John L. Thompson, West Washington street has been graded to the bridge, and Vineyard hill has been cut down and the bottom filled. Mr. Thompson collected some of the money and donated his own time and money to the work.

June 25, 1895—Graveling ordered done on State street, south from Washington to Marion and north from Cochran; on Section street, south from Harris to corporation line; on Sylvan Dell, from Crowder street to corporation line.

July 13, 1897—Town board votes to pave with brick the alley back of the buildings on the north side of the square.

January 30, 1902—J. B. Mullane has placed on sale a number of lots north of town. April 17—Town is growing rapidly, changes being especially noticeable on East Washington street, where houses now extend beyond the old fair grounds.

July 23, 1903—Silver Chaney, John C. Chaney, and L. A. Stewart purchase for ten thousand dollars 134 acres south of town, with the intention of making a new subdivision.

September 3, 1903—The town board decides to pave the square with brick and remove the hitch racks. (A protest follows against brick paving).

August 4, 1904—At recent town board meeting, the city engineer, Richard L. Bailey, made a report of his survey of the sanitary and storm sewerage system for that part of town lying west of State street. The report has been accepted, and the work will be performed under the law empowering a city to assess the cost of such improvements against property owners. September 8—The board having set a time for hearing objections to the proposed sewerage construction, not a citizen appeared to enter his objection.

September 15, 1904—Auction sale of lots in South Sullivan results in sale of 99 at total of \$7,592.50. November 3—Walks of vitrified brick to be built from Court street to new Southern Indiana depot.

January 19, 1905—Sewer system, after many revisions and the protest of many citizens, adopted. February 23—All bids from contractors for construction of sewer system rejected.

August 17, 1905—Street Commissioner Scott appears before the county commissioners asking that they keep the hitch racks clean and put in cement curb, gutter and sidewalk around square.

July 5, 1905—The district around the E. & T. H. depot becoming quite a business section and new buildings going up. Some older residents remember when this was the principal business part

of town, and trade centered in and around the half dozen stores near the depot. Recently only shacks have existed in "depot town."

September 21, 1905—The town board decides to pave with brick Washington street from Section street to the E. & T. H. railroad, Jackson street from Section to State street, and also the pulpit square; and to lay cement walks on the north side of Beech, from section to Broad, on the west side of Court, from Graysville to Wall, and on the east side of Cross, from Graysville to Washington streets.

April 25, 1907—Town board orders the paving of North Court street with brick, and the improvement of Troll street with crushed rock, cement walks, gutters and curbing.

#### *Sullivan Cemetery.*

The first cemetery of Sullivan was abandoned over forty years ago. It was located within the corporation limits. It is said that when Sullivan was platted, no provision was made for a burying ground. The first death was in the family of H. K. Wilson. It was suggested, as the only suitable place at the time, that the child be buried in broken ground southeast of town.

The site was out-lot No. 12, of the original town plat, a little less than two acres. Broad street was on the west side, and the cemetery ran south from Harris street.

After a quarter of a century the old ground was filled up. The location was unsatisfactory, as the town had by that time grown around it. An association was formed to locate and lay off a new cemetery, and in the spring of 1867 selected the ridge west of town on the old Hughes farm. This point, when the county seat was located at Sullivan, had been

designated as the exact geographical center of the county. This fact suggested the name for the burying ground, "Center Ridge," the name which now appears carved in the stone arch of the new entrance to this beautiful God's Acre. In the southwest corner of Center Ridge is a row of stones marking the graves of some who had first rested in the old cemetery. The bodies were removed from the old to the new cemetery, but in some cases the relatives and friends of the deceased could not be found and the town trustees bought the lots in the southwest corner of the cemetery for the graves of those who had no relatives and friends to attend to the removal.

Center Ridge occupies a high ground above Buck creek. There are many native trees, and little artificial landscape gardening was needed to produce the quiet beauty that should adorn the home of the dead. Several years after the cemetery was laid out, rose bushes and other shrubbery were set out, and the beginning thus made has been continued. A sidewalk was built from town to the bridge over Buck creek, and at the present time a cement walk leads to the new gateway, and a new concrete bridge will also be constructed over Buck creek. In December, 1893, it was reported that the trustees of the cemetery association had expended between three and four thousand dollars in grading and graveling drives in the cemetery, in making lots with stoneware posts and clearing the north end of the grounds. The following year, the management of the cemetery was made more systematic, rules being made for the filling and grading of lots, planting of vines, shrubs and trees, all to be done under the supervision of the superintendent.

About 1896 twelve acres additional ground was bought, on the west



side of the first plat. The cost of this new ground was \$3,584.75, and the cost of surveying, fencing and planting of trees was about \$250 more.

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A few years ago there existed in Sullivan an organization known as the Literature Club. Rev. Bartlett, pastor of the Presbyterian church, was the leader in the movement. The members studied and read the standard works of English poetry, drama and fiction. The last meeting of the club was held in June, 1890. In 1893 a meeting at the home of Judge Briggs took steps to reorganize, but the plans seem to have been somewhat changed, for during the following winter the Sullivan Historical Club took its place and studied the history of the United States. It is of interest that on the occasion of the club banquet at the home of Judge Briggs, in February, 1894, Mr. A. G. McNabb introduced a discussion of the needs of library facilities for the work which the club was doing, and this was followed by a talk from Judge Briggs, in which he suggested an organized movement to obtain a library. The topic was a favorite one among the club members during their subsequent meetings.

The coming of the Van Amberg circus to Sullivan in 1906 recalled an interesting bit of pioneer history. The original circus of this name was the first traveling show, it was said, to exhibit in Sullivan. The story was that when the advance agent appeared to engage a site for the tent, he found none available that was large enough, but he advertised the circus and went away. When the wagons of the circus drove into town on the appointed day, they could find no place to pitch their tent. The county commissioners were just beginning to clear the ground for the court house, and the versatile circus manager offered to clear the site if he

might be allowed to pitch his tents there. The bargain was made, and some of the citizens took part in the arduous frolic which the circus men made of clearing off the brush and trees.

The pioneer days of Sullivan were recalled in an issue of the *Democrat* in February, 1906, in speaking of Mr. William Catlin, whose parents had moved to the county about 1823. Mr. Catlin recollected seeing Indians pass along the trail which crossed the site of Sullivan town. This route was sufficiently used by the Indians, who, of course, walked single file, to keep the trail worn hard and smooth. At the day of the first sale of town lots in Sullivan a large crowd of settlers stood on the northwest corner of the square. The day was rainy and it was difficult to find a spot which was not covered with water, and Mr. Catlin, with others, took their stand on a log which lay across a pool of water near the auctioneer.

## CHAPTER X.

### MEROM.

David Thomas in his "Travels in the West," writing about 1818, has the following about the county seat of Sullivan county: "The beautiful bluff above Turtle creek, now called Merom, has become the seat of justice for Sullivan county; and was selected by commissioners appointed under an act of the legislature. The agent, who was authorized to sell the lots, makes the following remarks in his advertisement:

"It is situated on the east bank of the river, thirty-five miles above Vincennes, on that elevated ground known by the name of The Bluff, the highest bank of the Wabash from its mouth to the north [here the author explains that it should have been written east "line of the state"] line of the state. The river washes the base of this high land one mile. Freestone [sandstone] and a quality of [impure] limestone appear in the bank in great abundance. Springs in every direction around the town are discovered.

"From the most elevated point of the bluff, the eye can be gratified with the charming view of La Motte prairie, immediately below in front; and with Ellison and Union prairies on the right and left; the whole stretching along the river a distance of not less than thirty miles, and all now rapidly settling. In the rear of this

beautiful site, is a flourishing settlement of twenty or thirty farmers, three miles east of the town.

“ ‘Gill’s prairie, south three miles, has at present a handsome population of industrious farmers.

“ ‘A mile and a half from the town, a mill will soon be erected on Turtle creek by a Mr. Bennett.—June 27, 1817.’ ”

Such was the beginning of the quaint old town on the east side of the Wabash, which during the early years of Sullivan county was the “port of entry” and chief emporium of the county. One is impressed by the natural advantages of the site as a stronghold of defense. Had the settlement of the county been followed by wars for the possession and defense of the country, this site would have proved a capital “burg” or citadel, such as have proved scenes of glorious military achievements in different epochs and other lands. From the towering bluff the guns of the defenders could not only have swept the river, but would have commanded the approaches on all sides.

The original plat of Merom was on the plateau along the river. The first street on the west was called High, and then came Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth. On the south side of the first plat was Kane street, and north in succession lay Walnut, Market, Fetter, Poplar, White, Cherry, Coleman.

Of the early history of Merom few definite records exist. During the twenty-five years, until 1842, when it was the county seat, it was the most important town between Terre Haute and Vincennes. The periodical sessions of court brought lawyers and citizens to the court house, and on these occasions Merom was a scene of much activity and social plea-



tures. The export and import commerce of the time was transacted largely through the port of Merom. Here was the headquarters for the fleet of flatboats which the merchants of the day had built each season, and which in the spring were sent down stream loaded with grain, pork and other products of this locality. Business and official importance combined to make Merom a commercial, social and political center, around which have gathered associations that will always lend a special charm and interest to the locality.

Some fanciful explanations have been made in explanation of the name Merom. The choice of the name seems, however, to have been both a natural and happy one. Merom meaning high ground, and the name of the highest lake along the Jordan and the scene of Joshua's battle with the assembled kings, was not inaptly chosen to designate the high sandstone bluff by the Wabash.

The removal of the county seat in 1842 and the building of the Evansville & Terre Haute Railroad in 1854 were two events which combined to deprive Merom of much of its former prestige. Each year after the railroad came saw a decrease in the river traffic, and soon the town had only its mills and stores as the nucleus of former prosperity. The Merom mills were long an institution, attracting the patronage of hundreds of farmers from far and near. Cushman and Huff built the saw-mill here in 1845, and the following year added the grist mill. During the fifties the plant was owned by Seth Cushman, son of the original proprietor, and was operated after a time only as a flour mill. This enterprising miller did much to sustain the commercial reputation of Merom during the years when the town was isolated from railroads. The

establishment of Union Christian College in the late fifties also created an institution that has had an important bearing upon the subsequent prosperity of the town.

Merom was incorporated as a town in 1866. The petition for incorporation was laid before the commissioners in June of that year. The preliminary census gave 350 inhabitants in the proposed corporate limits. The plat of the town showing the limits of town jurisdiction included the "island," in the river near the foot of the bluff, and containing thirty-three acres. This island was the alleged rendezvous of a whiskey peddler and his patrons, it being his practice to sell bad whiskey from "the gunboat moored at the foot of the island." The bootlegger claimed to be outside of municipal, state and federal law, and hence the inhabitants of the proposed town thought to eliminate his nefarious business by extending the jurisdiction over his haunts.

The narrow-gauge railroad was completed to the Wabash in 1886, and the first trains crossed the river in that year. The bridge is over a mile south of Merom, and the railroad station established for the benefit of the townspeople is so far away that Merom is still practically isolated from the railroad. In November, 1887, the county surveyor laid out a town near the bridge, and this has since been known as Riverton, though it is really a suburb of the old town on the bluff.

The crown of the Merom bluff, overlooking the river, has always been a town commons, though the ownership and control of the property were subjects of litigation in the courts a few years ago. A grove of walnut and other lofty forest trees, standing in their native prime, is the chief adornment of the site, and a more picturesque natural park could hardly

be imagined. The spot has many associations for the native residents of the town, and has been the scene of picnics, political meetings, and other celebrations from almost the first years of the county's history.

This park has for several years been the grounds on which the Merom Bluff Chautauqua is held. If we except the Union Christian College, the Chautauqua may be considered the principal institution of the town at this time. Every year thousands of people gather in these beautiful surroundings, and amid the perfect influences of nature enjoy the best in literature, oratory and music and intellectual and religious culture. The first Chautauqua was held during August, 1905. Among the speakers and entertainers at these assemblies may be mentioned Eugene Debs, Eli Perkins, William J. Bryan, Joseph Folk, LaFollette, Tillman (pitchfork Ben), Governor Yates, and others of note in the political and literary world. In 1908 it was estimated that nearly fifty thousand people visited the Chautauqua.

## CHAPTER XI.

### CARLISLE.

An advertisement in the Vincennes *Western Sun*, in the issue of June 10, 1815, makes it possible to assign a definite date for the founding of the town of Carlisle. This advertisement is a document of much historical value, and reads as follows:

#### *Carlisle.*

Lots in the town of Carlisle will be sold on Friday, the 23rd inst., sale to commence at 9 o'clock a. m. This town is situated in the flourishing settlement of Busseron—the public square is spacious, laid off at right angles, well accommodated with streets and alleys. The town is within one mile of Eaton's mill (formerly Ledgerwood's), twenty-five miles from Vincennes—the country, water, and the special command of situation as to centrality, has long been looked forward to as the most eligible site for a flourishing [town] in this section of country.—The crowded population of the neighborhood gives superior advantages, and as to land, water and navigation no situation in the territory will bear a comparison—the lengthy credit of two years, viz: one-half at the expiration of one year and one-half at the expiration of two years, will be given.—Due attention at the town of Carlisle will be given on the day of sale by the proprietors.—June 7, 1815.

JAMES SPROUL,  
SAMUEL LEDGERWOOD,  
WILLIAM MCFARLAND.



The site of Carlisle was originally owned by Samuel Ledgerwood, and was sold to the two other proprietors named for the purpose of founding a town. A survey and platting would naturally precede the sale of lots, and hence it is possible to fix the date of the founding of Carlisle as the early summer of 1815, only a few months after the close of the second war with Great Britain.

The original plat of the town covered twenty-five blocks, the streets being laid out at angles of 45 degrees. The public square in the center was dedicated for the use of the court house, but no such building was ever erected there, and after many years it is now occupied by the handsome two-story school building, accommodating the school children of the town and the adjoining districts. Beginning on the northeast side of the plat, the street bounding the original townsite is Saline. Then came, parallel to it, Hackett, Lewis, Eaton, Harrison and Vincennes. From northwest to southeast the streets are—Turman, Gill, Ledgerwood, Alexander, Singer and West. The railroad station is at the east corner of the plat.

The first store was opened in this town in 1815, that being the traditional date. No exact record of institutions and affairs of that period is now obtainable, but its position as county seat and the presence of the milling industries nearby on Busseron were sufficient to cause a steady growth of village activities during the years following the founding of the town. The building of a frame Methodist church in 1818 was another milestone in the town's history. But the removal of the county seat to Merom about that time proved a serious obstacle to the increasing prosperity of Carlisle, and for over thirty years the annals of the town consist

chiefly in the life and daily activities of that group of leading families who during the past century have been identified with this town.

The most important event in the history of Carlisle after its founding and its brief importance as county seat was the building of the Evansville & Crawfordsville Railroad in 1854. This brought to test the real public spirit and enterprise of the inhabitants. The railroad was built with the aid of large subscriptions from all the counties through which it passed, and after the people of Carlisle and vicinity had already taxed themselves for the amount first demanded, the builders of the railroad announced their decision to run the railroad by a route whose nearest point was three miles from town. It was probably in the nature of a threat, made to secure more money. When protests proved unavailing, some of the wealthier citizens of Carlisle subscribed a fund of \$30,000 as an additional subsidy. Their action secured the railroad. The names of the sixteen men who subscribed to this fund are a representative list of the business men and leading citizens of that time, and are as follows: Joshua Alsop, William D. Blackburn, James D. Riggs, James K. O'Haver, James H. Paxton, Garrett Bros., Smith Greenfield, Alonzo Cotton, Joseph W. Briggs, William Alsop, William Collings, William Price, Josiah Wolfe, Benson Riggs, Jacob Hoke, Murphy & Helms.

An era of progress following the advent of the railroad, which made the village a shipping point for the rich agricultural region lying about the town, and resulted in the establishment of new lines of business and the general improvement of town. The next step was the incorporation of the town. The petition which was presented to the board of commis-

sioners in March, 1856, asking for incorporation, was signed by the following citizens:

Henry Hill	A. W. Springer
Peter E. Warner	F. M. Akin
Samuel J. Ledgerwood	Hugh S. Ross
Benson Riggs, Sr.	J. A. Curtner
J. D. Whitaker	Isom Shannon
Franklin Deckerman	John F. Curry
W. A. Watson	Spencer C. Weller
Mayo Jones	W. D. Blackburn
James S. Brengle	John Ledgerwood
W. M. Akin	J. A. Beck
Chester O. Davis	J. M. Parvin
H. N. Helms	Alexander Trigg
William Alsop	Lewis Gott
J. S. McClennan	S. M. Curry
Peter Hawk	John Martin
Smith Greenfield	John S. Davis
John Buckley	James D. Riggs
Thomas E. Ashley	John Trigg
W. H. Mayfield	John D. Simerell
W. R. Hinkle	Joshua Davis
Benson Riggs, Jr.	Joshua Alsop
Josiah Wolfe	Hosea Buckley
John M. Hinkle	

The vote of the citizens residing within the limits of the town on

the question of incorporation, which was held March 25, showed an almost unanimous sentiment in favor of town government. Sixty votes in all were cast, 57 being affirmative, and only one in direct negative, the other two being somewhat non-committal. The first town officials, elected in the following April, were: Smith Greenfield, James M. Parvin, Aaron W. Springer, John S. Davis, and John F. Curry, trustees; John Martin, clerk; Smith W. Buckley, marshal.

The first important undertaking of the new town government was the building of a suitable schoolhouse. Up to that time the school children of Carlisle attended a district school, but henceforth the town school system was to prevail. The board of trustees accepted plans for the building of the town school in July, 1856, and the four-room brick school building which stood on the public square until supplanted by the present building was completed in 1857.

The money for constructing the schoolhouse of 1857 was raised partly by taxation and partly by private donations. A few years ago when the present building was in process of construction, the *Sullivan Democrat* published some historical reminiscences concerning the first schoolhouse, and also some documents in the possession of Mrs. James E. Speake, among which was the following receipt issued to John Martin: "\$120. Town of Carlisle in Sullivan county, Ind. Received of John Martin one hundred and twenty dollars in John Davis receipts, it being the amount subscribed by him and wife as loan to build a schoolhouse in the town of Carlisle, which amount is to be refunded without interest, either in the way of paying special taxes assessed by the board of trustees of said town, or their successors in office, or a *pro rata* proportion of



each year's special taxes collected. Done by order of the board of trustees of the town of Carlisle, Oct. 15, 1858. (Signed) James M. Parvin, Pres. Attest: John Martin, clerk."

The first school register, also in the possession of Mrs. Speake, showed that school was first held in the new building, December 14, 1857, and the enrollment of male scholars was of the following, some of whom are now dead and others well known citizens of this and other communities: William Lewis, Harvey Ford, Elliott Halstead, Aaron Holder, Richard Parvin, William Jenkins, Anthony Springer, John Warner, John Henderson, Charles Riggs, William Simpson, Lewis Benefield, Marcellus Benefield, Charles Mayfield, Richard Mayfield, Henry Ott, Elijah Ott, Oscar Hall, Emory Ashley, Ransom Akin, John Owen, Quincy Ashley, Jacob Hasselbach, John Rodenbeck, Richard Jones, William Riggs, David Jones, Fleming Jones, Henry Hill, Charles Hill, Charles Davis, William Parvin, Lucian Johnson, John R. Adams, Edward Adams, John Wolfe, Alonzo Penzen, Eldridge Ellis, John Timmerman, John Curtner, Robert Ellis, Melvin Ellis, George Gannon.

The brick work on the old building was done by Jacob Starner, who was noted at that time for his skill as brick mason. The brick was made on the Starner farm, near Morris Chapel, and their excellent condition when the building was torn down to make room for the new one, nearly half a century later, showed how well brick could be made at that time. John Runkles and John Scantling did the carpenter work on the old building.

In May, 1903, the citizens of Carlisle voted to erect a new school building, of modern proportions and design, which might accommodate

the school population of this vicinity for years to come. The building was planned with two stories and basement, pressed brick and stone trimmings, with an assembly hall 30 by 75 feet. The construction of the new building began with the close of the school year, and early in 1904 it was completed and ready for use.

Within the present century much prosperity has come to Carlisle as a result of the coal mining industry. In 1905 the Carlisle Clay and Coal Company was organized, largely of eastern capital, and with Solomon Dieble general manager. Its large purchases and leases of mining lands and the sinking of a coal shaft near the town caused the building of many new houses in the town, and a general revival and improvement in business affairs.

## CHAPTER XII.

SHELBURN, FARMERSBURG, HYMERA, PAXTON, NEW LEB-  
ANON, GRAYSVILLE, PLEASANTVILLE, CASS,  
DUGGER, FAIRBANKS.

The town of Shelburn was named for Paschal Shelburn, one of the early settlers of Curry township, who had purchased a large tract of land when he came here in 1818, and lived there until his death at the age of eighty. He was a bachelor. In 1855, about a year after the completion of the railroad, he platted a town on some of his land. There were 33 lots in the original plat, 24 being on the east side of the railroad and the remainder on the west side.

The coal mining industry has always been the main source of profit and support for the town, and the Shelburn Coal Company a quarter of a century ago was one of the large companies of the county. The town had been incorporated, a graded school had been organized, and there were a grist mill and the various stores and professional interests of a village of several hundred population. During the nineties the impression prevailed that the coal deposits of this vicinity were worked out, and the progress of the town was seriously checked until it was discovered

that the better veins of coal lay deeper than those already worked. Since then a considerable part of the coal industry of the county has centered about Shelburn, and the population has grown rapidly during the present century. The Mammoth Coal Company was one of the large concerns that gave employment to many miners, for whose accommodation nearly a hundred houses were built south of the old town.

During 1904 and 1905 several notable developments occurred. An addition was built to the old school house, making the building nearly three times its original capacity. A chemical fire engine was bought for the protection of property. In the fall of 1905 the Presbyterian and Christian denominations effected church organization. The oldest churches are the Methodist and the Baptist, the latter having been organized about 1871. In February, 1906, the Baptist Sunday school celebrated its 36th anniversary, commemorating its organization in the old school-house with forty members, of whom the only survivor at this time was J. P. Siner, who was the first secretary. This was the first religious organization in the town, and was followed about a year later by the organization of the Baptist church.

Shelburn has been rather in advance of the towns of its size in municipal improvement. It has made the beginning of a sewer system, its streets are lighted, and with good schools and churches it affords many advantages to its residents. Shelburn has had several destructive fires—that of July 7, 1885, when the Linn and Cuppy buildings were burned; on December 22, 1893, burning Siner's hardware store; and November 15, 1905, which caused a loss of about \$5,000.



*Farmersburg.*

Farmersburg as a business and population center originated with the building of the Evansville and Terre Haute Railroad. James Cummins and George Hopewell laid out the village in 1853 on forty acres of land which lay west of the railroad. The founding of the Ascension Seminary here just before the war was the principal institution of the town, and the basis of its growth and prosperity. The word Ascension was used to designate the place quite as often as Farmersburg. Heap and Crawford laid out an addition to the village east of the railroad, and about that time the town was incorporated. When Captain Crawford moved the seminary in 1872, the departure almost caused the death of the town. One member of the Jennings family moved to the town about 1872, and a little later ran for the office of councilman. Only twenty-two citizens were entitled to vote, and he received 21 votes, the other suffragist remaining at home. There were about fifteen or sixteen families in town then. Some of the town lots which a few years before had brought a good price came near reverting to farm land. About 1903 Church Taylor laid off an addition of forty acres west of the original plat, and soon afterward Farmersburg began to grow, and has since been on a permanent basis of steady prosperity.

On the site of the old seminary stands the present Farmersburg public school building, constructed of brick and concrete, the cornerstone of which was laid September 1, 1905, and which was dedicated for use on Washington's birthday, 1906, the principal address being delivered by Capt. W. T. Crawford. At the close of 1907 a comparative review of the

public schools included the contrast between the old crowded four-room building and the new schoolhouse of ten rooms, the increase of enrollment from 275 to 385, from 35 high school pupils to 85, and a faculty of eight teachers.

In 1892 the Presbyterians of the village and vicinity erected a small church just east of the railroad, the dedication services being held about November 1st. In 1906 the church had increased so that a new building was needed, and with the expenditure of about four thousand dollars the church was remodeled into a pretty little edifice of Bedford stone with cathedral glass windows, and in May was dedicated by the Rev. George Knox.

On January 20, 1907, the new Central Christian church was dedicated. This is a stone church, of modern design and pleasing architectural lines.

In 1902 were organized the two banks of the town, the Citizens State Bank and the Farmersburg Bank, W. S. Baldrige being at the head of the former organization.

### *Hymera.*

Hymera, the principal center of Jackson township, was platted as a townsite about 1870. The site had during the pioneer period of the county been selected by the Methodists for the Bethel church, and a log building once stood within the limits of the present town, where the early settlers assembled for religious worship. On Busseron creek, southeast of the town, was a grist mill, said to have been erected in 1829. The first

school of the township was probably held in a building in the vicinity of the town. On the west was one of the first coal mines of the county, owner by H. K. and Harvey Wilson. The coal was used chiefly by blacksmiths, and was hauled in wagons to all parts of the county.

William Pitt was the owner of the land on which Hymera was founded, and when Nathan Hinkle platted the site the name Pittsburg was selected, in honor of the local resident and also perhaps suggested by the great coal center of Pennsylvania. Coal operations on a more extensive scale than in pioneer times had begun here when the town was laid off. Robert Linn had a general store, and for some years the store and postoffice, and two or three shops, comprised the business of the place. Linn's store was on the site now occupied by the Odd Fellows block. When the postoffice was established the name Pittsburg was not accepted by the department. The origin of the name Hymera is credited to John Badders, who was postmaster. He had an adopted daughter whose name was Mary and who was tall in figure, and the name he suggested for the postoffice was significant of these facts. The change of name for the village was accomplished in 1890. In April of that year a petition from nearly all the voters of Pittsburg was laid before the county commissioners asking that the name of the town as recorded on the plat be changed to Hymera. A short time previously, on the opening of the new mine at Alum Cave, the new town laid out there was called New Pittsburg, while the Hymera community in distinction was referred to as Old Pittsburg. The resulting confusion brought about the change in name. About this time a branch line of railroad reached up to the coal

mines in this vicinity, and since that time the coal industry has been supreme here, and Hymera has grown rapidly.

With the consolidation of the coal mines and the heavy operations which began with the opening of the present decade, Hymera expanded into a town. In 1902 it was incorporated, and in July the first election for town officers was held.

One of the memorable days in the history of Hymera was the celebration in October, 1904, known as "Mitchell day," in honor of the president of the national mine workers. The crowd in town was estimated at over seven thousand. A delegation met Mr. Mitchell at Terre Haute, and the local procession was made up of the K. of P. band, the labor organizations, the school children. The ceremonies of the day centered about the unveiling of a monument to Nathan Hinkle, the Revolutionary soldier (see sketch) who was buried in the Hymera cemetery. About a year before the movement had been started to raise funds for such a memorial, and the subscriptions had been gathered and the monument set in place for this occasion. Hon. James S. Barcus, a great-grandson of the patriot, delivered an address, and Miss Mamie Asbury, a great-granddaughter, assisted in the unveiling. The monument is fifteen feet high, representing a Revolutionary soldier at "parade rest." The inscription is "Nathan Hinkle, born June 7, 1749, died December 25, 1848." The other events of the day were held in the Zink grove, where speeches were made by Rev. A. P. Asbury and Robert W. Miers and John C. Chaney, and the principal address of the afternoon was delivered by John Mitchell.



In the fall of 1905 John Mitchell was reported to have said that Hymera was the neatest mining town in America, with more and better sidewalks according to its size than any town in the county, and many improvements indicating a progressive spirit among the citizens. There were five church organizations, the Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, United Brethren and Christian, the first two having good buildings, while the Presbyterians and U. B. were preparing to build. A five-room school building had proved inadequate, and a four-room addition was added in the summer of 1905. The Hymera State Bank, which had been organized in December, 1903, as the Bank of Hymera, by S. M. Patton and R. L. Ladd, was reorganized as a state bank in January, 1906, with Mr. Ladd as president and Mr. Patton cashier.

*Paxton.*

The railroad station between Carlisle and Sullivan, established a few years after the building of the railroad, was given its name in honor of an early merchant and physician of Carlisle. The town was platted in 1868 by W. P. Walter. A newspaper item of July, 1870, stated that the village contained one store, one cooper shop, a blacksmith, wagon and shoe shop, and some eighteen or twenty dwellings. Also a graded school was to be opened in the fall. A mission branch of the Sullivan Baptist church was organized at Paxton, June 27, 1886, by Rev. D. B. Miller, with A. R. Angle moderator and W. S. Smith clerk. The Church of Christ was built at Paxton in 1896, this being a branch of the Providence church south of town. The brick schoolhouse, which is a central school

accommodating several districts, was erected in 1906. In June of that year, just before the commencement exercises of the schools of the township were held in the Providence church, the former schoolhouse was burned. This building was in bad condition, and for some years had been a fruitful source of contention in the neighborhood.

*New Lebanon.*

The village of New Lebanon, though little more than a cross-roads hamlet and railroad station, with a few stores, churches and school, has had a noteworthy history and in other ways than commercially has influenced and wrought upon the social and moral welfare of the county. For many years its relations to the county at large comprehended a well defined and effective position as an educational center, and also a prominence derived from its acknowledged place as the center of Methodist activities and influence in the county. These relations have been elsewhere described, but aside from them New Lebanon's history may be briefly recalled.

The site of the town was originally owned by James Mason, Jesse Haddon, Robert Burnett and Thomas Springer, each one giving ten acres to make the plat. Thomas Springer kept the first store, and in 1836 was established the first postoffice. At one time a saloon existed in the town, but it was the only one and had a brief existence, being inconsistent with the moral attitude of the town.

After the academy ceased to exist many of its ideals were continued in the public schools. The building itself in which the academy was

taught was used by the township for the village schoolhouse, and is still standing back of the handsome brick schoolhouse that was erected a few years since. During the seventies the old academy building was considered one of the most commodious school buildings in the county.

*Graysville.*

About 1850 Lafayette Stewart established a store four miles from Merom on the State road. He also procured a postoffice for this vicinity, and he became postmaster and delivered the mail at his store. Joseph Gray, Sr., was the owner of the land in this vicinity and was probably owner of the store. He was also proprietor of a woolen mill near by, and for these reasons the postoffice was named Graysville. The village has never been incorporated. During the seventies it had a population of about 100. Robert Carrithers was the merchant of that time. At an earlier date more than one store was kept at a time. The physicians of thirty years ago were A. N. and S. D. Weir and Arbaces Cushman.

Graysville has always been a religious center. The Methodists built a church there during the fifties, and the Presbyterians were established there over thirty years ago. The Presbyterian church was dedicated December 10, 1871, by Rev. J. P. Fox of Carlisle.

*Pleasantville.*

During the present decade the town of Pleasantville in Jefferson township has become an active center for the coal mining industry. Several companies secured acreage in this vicinity, and a considerable number of miners lived and worked in the shafts in and about Pleasantville.

The working of the coal deposits in this locality is an old story, coal having been taken out by "slope" and "stripping" processes by some of the early residents, among them being the O'Havers and Timmermans. Jesse Beck, James Mayfield, James Harvey, Nathan Hinkle, Elias Newkirk were among the other first residents of this vicinity. Elias Newkirk built a blacksmith shop just south of the village site many years ago, and his son, F. M. Newkirk, was the village blacksmith until within recent years. A steam mill was constructed early in the sixties, and this was the real nucleus of the village of Pleasantville.

When the townsite was laid off a few years later it was named for Pleasant O'Haver, who was the first postmaster and who also at the time had become owner of the mill. Jackson Hinkle and W. P. O'Haver were also early postmasters and merchants. In 1871 a two-story brick schoolhouse was built. The citizens took much pride in their school, and the record of the township in education stood high at a time when free school facilities were very imperfect in the county.

#### *Cass Village.*

The village of Cass, in the township of the same name, was laid out along the line of the narrow-gauge railroad in the summer of 1880. The postoffice from the first has been known as Cass, but the village for some years was called Buell, named in honor of a railroad man. The general store of Pope and Usrey was the principal business establishment for a number of years. Dr. N. H. Brown, as postmaster and physician, was also prominent in the early affairs of the village. It was four years after



the founding of the village before a religious service was held there, Rev. J. H. Meteer preaching there in September, 1884.

*Dugger.*

Dugger, near the east line of Cass township, originated in the population and community growth that often center about coal mines. A coal operator named Dugger had a large mine on the "narrow gauge" railroad about twenty-five years ago, and his name was given to the little village that was formed at that point. Dugger has ever since been a coal town. The Vandalia Coal Company about the beginning of this century acquired control of most of the mines in this vicinity, and about 1903 the village entered upon a period of great progress. A movement was begun to incorporate the village, and the census, taken in August, 1903, preliminary to the election, showed the population to be 757, there being 172 heads of families. The townsite, to which some extensive additions had been recently made, covered about four hundred acres. When the matter of incorporation was submitted to the voters in October, it was defeated by a majority of sixteen, said to be the result of opposition on the part of the saloonkeepers.

Some of the important improvements in the village made about this time were the erection of the Odd Fellows' building, the founding of the *Dugger Enterprise* (October 2, 1903), and the dedication of the M. E. church (June 19, 1904). It was estimated in the summer of 1905 that the population of the village was 1,200, most of it the result of the growth of the previous four years. There were then about twenty stores and

merchandise houses, and the Christians and Methodists both had churches. The State bank was established in July, 1904, by Joseph Moss.

The movement to incorporate the village has recently succeeded. At an election held January 2, 1909, 147 votes were cast for and 40 against incorporation, and Dugger has now a town government.

*Fairbanks.*

The village of Fairbanks originated during the lively days when the old state road from Vincennes to Terre Haute was the route for a considerable commerce and the daily passage of stage coach and road wagon. Benjamin Ernest, James Pogue and Samuel Myers were the men who, about 1840, set aside a tract of twenty acres which was surveyed and platted as a townsite. The town was given the name of the township, which was bestowed to honor a lieutenant who was massacred by the Indians while escorting a train of supplies toward Fort Harrison.

Fairbanks because of its inland situation has grown little since the railroad era. At the present time and for several years past the residents of this vicinity have indulged in the prospect of railroad or electric inter-urban facilities, which, when realized, will at once give a heavy impulse to business activity in this region. At the present time the village has its graded school, one or two churches, and the stores and professional activities of the small center.

## CHAPTER XIII.

### COUNTY INSTITUTIONS.

The central portion of the present courthouse at Sullivan has stood for over half a century. It was built immediately after the fire of February 7, 1850. It was the seat of government during the war, and was the arsenal from which the first militia company was supplied with muskets. To an old resident, many memories cling about the old brick courthouse. The building is about as old as the recorded official history of the county, since no record remains of the transactions of the county officers before the fire.

#### *Courthouse.*

The county commissioners (Joseph W. Wolfe, Jesse Haddon, Levi Maxwell) took action on March 15, 1850, toward the erection of a new seat of government. In the meanwhile the clerk's office was in a store building, and circuit and other courts were convened in the Methodist church building. In April an appropriation of \$2,500 was made to begin work. It was October before the lumber and brick were delivered on the square, and the county contracted with James F. Pound and William Reed to erect the structure for \$7,853. The ground dimensions were 40 by 60 feet. When it was completed on January 1, 1852, the courthouse had cost the county nearly \$9,000.

*Jail.*

The first jail after the removal of the county seat to Sullivan stood on Broad street, just south of the present jail. It was a two-story building, with double walls of logs, the ground dimensions being about 32 by 16 feet. The south end of the lower floor was intended for the residence of the sheriff. In the jail portion of the lower floor was one window, and in the upper story were three windows, each about eighteen inches square, latticed with iron bars riveted at their crossings, leaving open squares of about two inches through which came light and air. Heavy wooden shutters were used to close the windows.

In 1858 a new jail was built on the same lot occupied by the one just described. The contract price for the brick and wood work was \$2,750, and for the iron work, \$2,462. The building was completed in October, 1858, and was in use for over thirty years. The county commissioners began considering the building of a new jail in 1885, but did not act until 1889. In June of that year the bid of B. B. Harris, of Greensburg, was accepted for \$24,875. The commissioners decided to locate the new building on the corner north of the former jail, buying two lots on Washington street for \$1,860. The contractor began the construction of the brick and stone building at once, and it was completed in the following spring and accepted by the commissioners in April. A bond issue of \$30,000 provided the funds for this building. The old jail building was sold to Joshua Beasley for \$881.

*Poor Asylum.*

Sullivan county did not have a poor farm and asylum for the destitute and helpless until 1855. Previous to this time there was a county official



who looked after the poor, but the few paupers in his care were assigned to some individual who, for a certain amount each year, agreed to house and feed the unfortunates, at the same time getting the benefit of their labor so far as he was able to utilize it. The amount bid for the care of the poor in 1852 was \$35 for each person.

In the summer of 1855 the county board bought from Henry K. Wilson eighty acres of land lying in sections 35 and 26, of town 8, range 9, for \$1,825. The little house on the farm was to be the asylum, and was improved for that purpose. In that year the pauper contract was let to Thomas Hale at \$20 per person and the use of the poor farm.

The first asylum building was erected during the last year of the Civil war. The bids were received on July 27, 1864. The accepted bid was \$4,480 for a two-storied front, 18 by 45 feet, and a one-story rear structure, 25 by 48 feet. The building was complete at the time called for in the contract, which was September 1, 1865. A frame building put up in 1877 was used for an infirmary. In 1885 a new infirmary was completed. In 1896 plans were laid by the commissioners for the erection of a new building, modern in arrangements and sanitary conditions. The building was designed 120 feet long by 95 feet wide, the front to be for the use of the superintendent and family and the center and rear to contain twenty sleeping rooms and two sitting rooms and two dining rooms for the inmates. Steam heat, electric light and the most approved plumbing and ventilation were provided. The contract for the building was let in May to Briggs and Freeman of Sullivan for \$15,307, without plumbing, which was a separate contract, bringing the total up to \$18,554.

## CHAPTER XIV.

### THE BENCH AND BAR.

The seventh article of the constitution of 1851, as originally adopted, provided that "The judicial power of the state shall be vested in a supreme court, in circuit courts, and in such inferior courts as the general assembly may establish." Under the power so granted, the legislature, by an act approved May 14, 1852, provided for a court of common pleas, to consist of one judge, elected by the voters of the proper district, who should hold his office for four years.

This court was given the jurisdiction of the old probate court, with certain additional civil and criminal jurisdiction, inferior to the jurisdiction of the circuit court. It was the old probate court greatly improved, and with its powers and usefulness much enlarged.

By an act approved June 11, 1852, provision was made for the election of a district attorney in every common pleas district. The duties of this officer in the court of common pleas were quite similar to those of the prosecuting attorney in the circuit court, except that his jurisdiction, like that of the common pleas judge, was in general limited to prosecutions for misdemeanors. As in case of the old probate court, appeals might be

taken from the court of common pleas either to the circuit court or to the supreme court. Appeals from justices of the peace might be taken to the court of common pleas or to the circuit court. There were four terms of court each year. At first these terms were fixed for the first Monday in January in each year, and for the first Monday of every third month thereafter. The length of each term was made to depend upon the population of the county, varying from one to three weeks. The clerk, however, in the absence of the judge, was, for many purposes, required to keep the court open "on every judicial day of the year."

The common pleas court was abolished by the act of March 6, 1873, its business being transferred to the circuit courts of the respective counties.

#### *Probate Courts.*

Acting under the provisions of article fifth of the constitution of 1816, authorizing the establishment of courts inferior to the circuit court, the legislature, by an act approved February 10, 1831, provided for the organization in each county of a probate court, consisting of one judge, to be elected every seven years by the voters of the county. The court was given "original and exclusive jurisdiction in all matters relating to the probate of last wills and testaments"—granting letters testamentary, letters of administration, and of guardianship; including also "the protection of minors, idiots and lunatics, and the security and disposition of their persons and estates." The probate court was also given concurrent jurisdiction with the circuit court in actions "in favor of or against heirs, devisees, legatees, executors, administrators, or guardians, and their sureties

and representatives"; also "in the partition of real estate," and some other like cases.

The procedure as to pleadings, writs, trial, judgment, executions, etc., was in all respects similar to that in the circuit court, including the right to trial by jury. There might be an appeal either to the circuit court, or directly to the supreme court. The clerk of the circuit court and the sheriff of the county were alike officials of the probate court. As finally fixed by statute, the court met regularly on the second Mondays of February, May, August and November—except in case the circuit court or the board of county commissioners should be in session on such day, when the probate court was to sit on the succeeding Monday. The sessions of the court were limited to six days, and the compensation of the judge was three dollars per day.

#### *Circuit Court.*

By article fifth of the constitution of 1816, it was provided that "The judiciary power of this state, both as to matters of law and equity, shall be vested in one supreme court, in circuit courts, and in such other inferior courts as the general assembly may from time to time direct and establish."

The same article of the constitution further provided that the circuit courts should consist each "of a president and two associate judges"; that the state should be divided into three circuits, for each of which a president should be appointed, who should reside within his circuit; that the legislature might increase the number of circuits and presidents as the exigencies of the state might from time to time require; that all judges



should "hold their offices during the term of seven years, if they shall so long behave well, and shall at stated times receive for their services a compensation which shall not be diminished during their continuance in office"; and that "The presidents of the circuit courts shall be appointed by joint ballot of both branches of the general assembly; and the associate judges of the circuit courts shall be elected by the qualified electors in the respective counties." There was this further provision, that "The president alone, in the absence of the associate judges, or the president and one of the associate judges, in the absence of the other, shall be competent to hold a court, as also the two associate judges, in the absence of the president, shall be competent to hold a court, except in capital cases and cases in chancery."

In the act approved January 24, 1831, the legislature provided that the president should receive a salary of seven hundred dollars a year, to be paid out of the state treasury; and that the associate judges should receive two dollars a day, while attending court, to be paid out of the county treasury. By an act approved February 15, 1838, it was provided that, in the absence of any presiding judge of the circuit, any other presiding judge of the state might hold court in such circuit. This was, in effect, a provision for a change of venue from a judge, and was so intended by the legislature as shown by the preamble to the act. Express provision was afterward made for changes of venue in case the presiding judge should be disqualified for any cause. In such case the special judge was allowed three dollars a day for his services.

By article seventh of the constitution of 1851 the judiciary system was completely changed. The associate judges were discontinued, and

provision was made for the election for six years of one judge for each circuit. By an act approved June 17, 1852, the state was divided into ten circuits. With increase of population the number of circuits has grown, thirty-eight being established by the legislature in 1873, and the number being now over sixty.

*The Bar.*

Samuel Judah, who came to Merom about 1819-20, and lived in the county about three years, was one of the lawyers of Indiana who adapted the principles of general and statute law to the usage of the state. He was a native of New York, of Jewish stock, was educated at Rutgers College, and was admitted to the bar in 1819, when only twenty years old. He traveled west to Vincennes, which was then sufficiently supplied with lawyers, and in consequence he continued on to almost the edge of civilization and located at Merom. His practice while a resident of Sullivan county was confined to the usual routine cases entrusted to a young lawyer, but in later years, when he resided at Vincennes, he was frequently engaged in the suits that reached the highest state courts, and was not unknown as a lawyer to the nation at large. He possessed great power as a public man, and was once speaker of the house of representatives of Indiana, and in 1840 came within one vote of election to the United States senate.

The most interesting memorial of Mr. Judah's residence in this county is a letter which he wrote to his sister, dated at Merom, August 24, 1821. The village of Carlisle and some of its people seem much closer to the present as we read these lines: "To me there is nothing so amusing as the conversation of men of general information and practical knowledge.

During a three months' sickness last fall at Carlisle, a neighboring village, I should most certainly have fretted myself to death had not the periods of intermission and the time of convalescence been relieved by exceedingly good company and books. Two young lawyers, two young doctors, one of whom had served in the Mediterranean, the other my friend McDonald, blessed with a fine mind and possessed of much knowledge and very pleasant manners, an editor of a newspaper whose genius was only excelled by his lightness of heart, a gentleman who as a commission merchant had resided in many of the cities of continental Europe, a disbanded United States major, absolutely the most pleasing and best natured companion I ever met with, and two old sea captains who had been all over the world, formed an assemblage affording more pleasant amusement and enlivening conversation than I expected to find in the backwoods among ten persons, laboring under the effects of sickness, at a season almost unexampled—strangers and assembled at the same place by chance. Captain Wasson lived in Carlisle, and when the others were gone, in company with him or his books, I enjoyed much pleasure and spent the time pleasantly."

The judges of the old court of common pleas, though not residents of Sullivan county, were well known to the bar of this county. One of the best known men of the time in this part of Indiana was Chambers Y. Patterson, who was the second judge to serve in the common pleas district comprising Sullivan county. He was born in Vincennes in 1824, studied law with Griswold and Usher at Terre Haute, and graduated from Harvard Law School. He married the daughter of Hon. John Law, one of the circuit judges of southern Indiana. When in 1859 the legislature made a new common pleas district of Vigo, Sullivan, Parke and Vermilion

counties, he was elected judge. He was defeated in 1864 by Samuel F. Maxwell, this being his only defeat during his career. He was later elected judge of the eighteenth circuit, when it was composed of Vermilion, Parke, Sullivan and Vigo counties. He continued as circuit judge in Vigo and Sullivan counties (which in 1878 were made the fourteenth circuit) until his death in 1881. Concerning his character as a judge, it has been said: "He was not a close student of the law, and consequently his knowledge of the law acquired from books was limited. He possessed a good judicial mind, and gave close attention to the evidence in causes tried before him, and decided according to the natural equity or the right of the case. . . . He transacted business rapidly and impartially. His decisions stood the test in the supreme court far above the average of judges."

James M. Hanna, who died on his farm in Curry township, January 15, 1872, was distinguished by service on the supreme bench of the state from 1858 to 1866, and thereafter lived in Sullivan county till his death. He served a term as state senator from this county. He was born in Franklin county, Indiana, in 1816. His son, Burton G. Hanna, was born in Clay county in 1840, graduated from the State University, entered the law and served a term as prosecuting attorney, and was prominent in Democratic politics.

A former member of the Sullivan county bar whose acquaintance with the members of the profession and whose personal standing gave him the distinction of leadership was Sewell Coulson. He came to Sullivan county in 1856. Born in Pennsylvania in 1825, of Quaker parentage, he studied law in Ohio and had attained considerable reputation in Hardin county



before his removal to Sullivan county. He was a partner of Israel W. Booth for several years. He was retained as counsel on one side or the other of the most important criminal trials in Sullivan county courts. His ability as a lawyer never secured recognition in public office for the reason that he was a Republican, but he was long a man of influence in the profession and as a citizen. In a former history of Sullivan county he was the author of the chapters on the bench and bar, and thus preserved to memory many interesting and valuable facts concerning the former lawyers and courts of this county.

Mr. Coulson died at his home in Sullivan, December 6, 1884. At a meeting of the bar, of which Judge Buff was chairman, speeches paying tribute to him were made by Murray Briggs, J. T. Hays, J. W. Hinkle, W. and C. E. Barrett, T. J. Wolfe, Alex. Massie and James B. Patten, and among the resolutions adopted was one that "in the death of Sewell Coulson the bar of the Sullivan circuit court has lost its ablest member and the profession one of its brightest lights." The editor of the *Democrat* estimated him as one who was never known to hold malice, and in his practice was remarkably tenacious of his clients' rights, and was never accused of being untrue to those who employed him.

The present congressman from the Second Indiana district, John C. Chaney, is closely identified with Sullivan county. When a boy he attended the Ascension Seminary and was an honor graduate. He taught school while preparing for the law, and after a course of study in the office of John T. Gunn he entered the Cincinnati Law School and graduated in 1882, after which he returned to Sullivan to begin practice in partnership with his old preceptor, Judge Gunn. The Chaney family have

been well known in the public life of the county for many years, yet politically they are Republicans and have gained honors against normal majorities of the other party.

The successor of C. Y. Patterson as judge of the circuit court was George W. Buff, who was elected to that office in 1882. He was born in Darke county, Ohio, in 1843, his parents moving to a farm near Merom in 1862. He studied law with his brother, N. G. Buff, in Sullivan, and began the practice of law in 1870, at first with his brother, and later with John T. Hays, and then with James B. Patten.

During the latter part of his career, Judge James C. Allen was a prominent member of the Illinois bar, was a judge of the supreme court of that state, member of Congress, and very prominent in Democratic politics. He began his career in Sullivan county when twenty-one years old. Born in Kentucky in 1822, he was a young lawyer at Merom during the last months of that town's position as county seat, and followed the court to Sullivan. In 1845 he was elected prosecuting attorney, and after his term in that office moved to Illinois to continue his upward progress in law and politics.

The pioneer, Rev. Joseph Williams Wolfe, was a versatile and very active man. In 1860 he was admitted to the bar. For some years before and for a long time afterward he was a familiar figure in the office of the circuit clerk, serving as a deputy through various administrations after he had been circuit clerk himself for eight years. At a still earlier period in the county's history he had been an active minister of the Christian church, and his name appears in many church records. He was also a large property owner. He was a Virginian, born in Frederick county in

1810, of German descent, and the family located in Sullivan county in 1819.

In later years the name Hamill has been familiar in the history of the bar of Terre Haute. The late S. R. Hamill, Jr., figured prominently in the trials of John R. Walsh, the Chicago banker and railroad promoter. M. C. Hamill is a prominent attorney of Terre Haute. A little over thirty years ago the father of these men, Samuel R. Hamill, was himself an active member of the Sullivan county bar. When death through heart failure took him away on June 22, 1875, he had been serving about a year as prosecuting attorney of the judicial circuit of Sullivan and Vigo counties. He had lived in this county about twenty-five years. He was born at Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, about 1820, studied law and moved first to Newark, Ohio, to practice, and then to Evansville, Indiana, and also lived a while in Wisconsin. After his marriage to Miss Martha Wood, member of a distinguished family of Terre Haute, he came to Sullivan county. At one time he served as school examiner for the county, and for some years had been a trustee of the schools of Sullivan. He was a fluent and forcible speaker.

From 1854 to 1884 one of the bar's most thoroughly qualified members was John T. Gunn, who excelled as a practitioner, who studied all the precedents and authorities and relied upon logical and carefully prepared argument to win his cases. He was noted for his precision and methodical manner of doing business. He died January 19, 1884, at Jacksonville, Florida, where he had spent several months in the vain effort to restore health. At a citizens' meeting resolutions on his character and career were prepared by a committee of associates consisting of Judge

Buff, J. T. Hays, J. C. Briggs, D. Crawley, J. T. Mann, J. C. Bartlett and Dr. Thompson. Mr. Gunn was born in England, April 16, 1826, and located at Sullivan in 1853, being admitted to practice in May of the following year. He was one of the oldest members of the bar at the time of his death.

The military spirit ran high in the members of the Briggs family. It is said that Benjamin Briggs, the first American of this family, came to the colonies from England about 1770, and a few years later mortgaged his estate to raise a company of patriots to fight against the mother country, and, besides sacrificing his estate, lost his left arm at Monmouth and his right leg at Yorktown. David, his son, raised a company for the defense of Baltimore in the war of 1812, and was always known as "Major" Briggs. Joseph W. Briggs, a son of the major, was one of the few men who came to Sullivan county during pioneer times possessed of a college education. He was a graduate of Dickinson College of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and had been admitted to the bar of that state before he came west to Carlisle, Indiana. In this county he was a merchant and farmer for a time, was elected probate judge, in 1836 state representative, and soon afterward began the practice of law, which he continued until his death. Following the example of his father and grandfather, when the Mexican war broke out he raised a company, largely of Sullivan county men, and led them to battle in the campaigns of southern Texas and Mexico. He was noted for his scholarship, his fluency as a speaker, his readiness in argument, and his broad knowledge of the world.

On the death of Judge John C. Briggs, at his home near Sullivan, April 14, 1901, the Sullivan county bar declared that, "as a soldier, a



legislator, a judge, and a lawyer, he had met each responsibility with credit to himself and honor to the country. . . . In cross-examination he was exceedingly strong, so also in summing up a case before a Sullivan county jury. His mind was masterful and his memory wonderful. . . . In the death of the Hon. John C. Briggs the state and county have lost a useful and distinguished citizen, the Sullivan county bar has lost a leading member, and his wife has lost a devoted husband."

Judge Briggs, who was a member of the well-known family of that name in Sullivan county, was born at Carlisle, September 2, 1841, and came to Sullivan at the age of fifteen to study in the old seminary. When the war came he enlisted in the Fourteenth Indiana Infantry, was later transferred to the cavalry and made quartermaster. For personal bravery in battle he was promoted to captain. At the close of the war he was located for a short time at Eastport, Mass., but in the winter of 1867-68 returned to Sullivan. He was a while in the dry goods business with James W. Hinkle. In 1869 he began reading law in Dan Voorhees' office at Terre Haute, and the following year was admitted to the bar. At the fall election of the same year he was elected prosecutor for the circuit then composed of Vermilion, Parke, Vigo and Sullivan counties. Until 1873 the firm of Voorhees & Briggs shared a large practice at Terre Haute, and the partnership continued for several years after Mr. Briggs' removal to Sullivan. In 1878 Mr. Briggs was elected to the state legislature, but declined re-election, and from 1880 to 1888 achieved his highest honors as a lawyer. In 1888 he was elected judge of the circuit court, and after leaving the bench his health gradually declined until his death.

## CHAPTER XV.

### THE PROFESSION OF MEDICINE.

The Sullivan County Medical Society was organized at a meeting of the physicians at the courthouse at Sullivan, May 19, 1858. The first set of officers consisted of: H. N. Helms, president; S. R. Youngman, vice president; John J. Thompson, secretary, and John M. Hinkle, treasurer. The only other members present at this time were Eli Bowyer and W. R. Miller, who were chosen censors. The objects of the society were most commendable. The association was "for the purpose of mutual recognition and fellowship; the maintenance of union and good government among its members; the promotion of the interest, honor and usefulness of the profession; and the cultivation and advancement of medical science and literature, and the elevation of the standard of medical education."

The names of several additional members of the profession appear in the list of those in attendance at the second annual meeting. They were A. J. Miller, Ziba Foote, A. N. Wier, J. K. O'Haver, Harvey Brown and W. G. Stout.

The Civil war interfered with the activity of the society, and the

physicians did not reorganize until the late sixties, at which time they became a branch of the state medical society.

Another organization of the physicians of the county into an association was effected at Sullivan, April 23, 1895. The officers elected at that time were: R. H. Crowder, president; Dr. Cushman, vice president; Dr. Pirtle, secretary; Walter N. Thompson, treasurer.

A physician whose connection with the southern part of the county a quarter of a century ago will be readily recalled was Dr. Richard M. Whalen, who died at his home near Carlisle, July 7, 1899. His son, J. R. Whalen, succeeds him in the practice of the profession at Carlisle. The elder Dr. Whalen was physician to an older generation. The family is a prominent one. A forefather was born in Ireland, and later generations have lived in North Carolina and Tennessee, and for more than three quarters of a century the name has been identified with Haddon township. The late Dr. Whalen did not take up the study of medicine until about thirty-five years old, having spent a year in selling clocks about the country, and his life was further diversified by an experience in teaming during the early days in Kansas. His preparation for the practice of medicine was completed by a course in the Rush Medical College of Chicago, in 1867, and he then returned to practice in his native county. Some years ago he was proprietor of a drug store at Carlisle. He was an honored member of his profession, a fine type of the country doctor.

Dr. Andrew N. Weir began practice about 1858 and for twenty-five years visited the sick about Graysville, and later had a drug store and established a practice in Sullivan. During the war he was with the Seventy-first Regiment, at first as captain of the Sullivan company, and in

1863 was commissioned assistant surgeon and in the following year promoted to surgeon of the regiment, with which he remained to the close of the war. He was born in Washington county, Indiana, November 9, 1832, and died at Sullivan in September, 1885. He was a Mason and Odd Fellow.

It is said that Dr. John J. Thompson, when he came to Sullivan in 1848, had but fifty cents. He was then twenty-four years old, had been practicing medicine for a while, and after getting well established in Sullivan became, in time, known as a wealthy man. He had completed his professional course at Rush Medical College, and was an able man in every way. He married Miss Mary A. Langston.

A physician whose practice in Sullivan county covered the middle decades of the last century was Alexander Marion Murphy, who about 1841 formed a partnership with Dr. J. K. O'Haver at Carlisle, and for thirty years or more was quite actively identified with the profession. He was one of the early physicians whose education was along the broad lines that characterize the modern physician's training. He had begun his studies in Bloomington, continued them in the medical college at Louisville, Kentucky, and after practicing for several years took other courses in the University of New York. He was a surgeon in the Ninety-seventh Indiana Regiment from 1862 to 1864.

Dr. Jesse M. Mathes, who was born in this county in 1841, was a soldier in Company D of the Twenty-first Regiment and Company I of the Ninety-seventh, until his discharge in the latter part of 1864 on account of a wound received at Kenesaw Mountain, studied medicine after



the war and began practice at Carlisle about 1868. He was a graduate of Rush Medical College of Chicago.

The career of one of the old physicians deserves special mention because of its associations with the life and affairs of the county during the central period of the last century. Dr. Hamet N. Helms, though born in New York state in 1814, came with his parents, Jacob and Anna Helms, to Carlisle in 1817, and for half a century was identified with the county in a way that is worthy of note. His life's future was determined by an event when he was ten years old. His mother dying about that time, he was subsequently reared to manhood in the home of the eminent citizen and physician, Dr. John W. Davis. In consequence of this association he took up the study of medicine, and during the winter of 1837-38 attended medical lectures at Lexington, Kentucky. Among the incidents of his early career he is said to have piloted flatboats from the shallow waters of Busseron creek, down the Wabash, Ohio and Mississippi to New Orleans. In 1839 he began a partnership practice with Dr. Davis, and during his professional experience was associated with several physicians who have helped make medical history in Sullivan county, among them being Dr. A. M. Murphy, Dr. John M. Hinkle, and Dr. W. R. Miller. Dr. Helms was a fine type of the old-style physician, a friend of every patient, and beloved in the community which he served. His later years were devoted to farming, on a fine country estate near Carlisle. The Methodist church at Carlisle owed much to his efforts as a contributor and active worker, and the philanthropic direction of his enterprise was also shown in his appointment during later life as a trustee of the Indiana Reform School for Boys. He died at Carlisle, September 16, 1892. He was first mar-

ried to Mary A. Davis about 1839 and three children were born to them, Benjamin R., Margaret D. and Ann R. His wife dying about 1851, shortly after her death he made an overland trip to California. After his return he was married to Mrs. Amanda Sollee and by this marriage three children were born, Samuel D., Albert G. and Daniel W. V.

Benjamin Rush Helms, oldest son by the first marriage of Dr. Hamet N., spent nearly all his life at Carlisle and was also a physician. He was born in 1840 and died in 1887. A schoolboy in the Carlisle Academy when the war broke out, he enlisted in Company D of the Twenty-first Indiana Infantry, and was promoted to second lieutenant. He studied medicine at Rush Medical College, and practiced at Carlisle until 1882, when he moved to Henderson, Kentucky. His first wife was Lola Jenkins and his second, Ella Letcherer.

Robert H. Crowder, whose father was a physician, was this well known family's representative in the field of medicine in Sullivan county. He began practice at Graysville some time during the war, but gave it up to enter the army, first as captain of a company, and later as surgeon of the Eleventh Indiana. After being mustered out in 1865 he re-entered Rush Medical College at Chicago, and, graduating in 1866, returned to a permanent connection with Sullivan as a physician.

A physician who began practice at Sullivan a short time before the war, and was thereafter prominent in his profession as also in Democratic politics, was Dr. S. S. Coffman. He was born in Indiana in 1828, and prepared for his profession in the Kentucky School of Medicine and in the medical department of Transylvania University at Lexington. He was

active in Democratic politics and during the seventies represented the county in the legislature.

James Newton Young, who died at Carlisle, August 16, 1894, was for twenty-eight years a leading practitioner of that place. He was born in Gibson county, May 16, 1842, and after attending the schools at Princeton began the study of medicine in the Ohio Medical College in the fall of 1863. He was graduated in March, 1865, and was then appointed surgeon in the United States volunteer navy, and received the thanks of the department when he was discharged in 1866. He was in charge of the vessel *Gazelle* until the war closed, when he was given charge of the naval ordnance depot at Jefferson barracks. On leaving the service he located at Carlisle.

## CHAPTER XVI.

### THE PRESS.

The first newspaper in this county was published at Carlisle. Jeremiah Young came from Daviess county about 1844 and established the *Jacksonian Democrat*, but continued it through only a few numbers. James C. Allen, at that time a lawyer of this county, with Thomas Marks, used the same plant for the publication of the *Carlisle Messenger*, but probably this lasted only through the political campaign, since the newspapers of that time were conducted largely as an instrument of politics. The *Messenger* was, however, the first regular paper in the county. A copy is still preserved by the Helms family, being No. 41 of Volume I, dated November 19, 1845. At that time George W. Bee & Co. were editors and publishers.

This paper is chiefly interesting for its advertisements, which tell some of the business and professional interests of Carlisle at that time. Peter Hawk and Company were tailors, I. Shannon had a saddlery and harness shop, the general store of J. D. Riggs was an important establishment, and J. and J. Alsop advertised dry goods and groceries and "old rectified whisky, always on hand and for sale by the barrel." A. M. Murphy and H. N. Helms were partners in medicine and had their office



one door south of Riggs' store on Ledgerwood street. Dr. J. H. Paxton, who had closed out a store, had his office at Mrs. Hall's residence. Thomas Marks and James C. Allen were local attorneys, while three Sullivan lawyers also advertised—A. J. Thickstun, L. H. Rousseau and R. A. Rousseau. D. H. Hancock was at that time the sheriff, his name appearing in the notices of settlement of the estates of William S. Cruft and Robert Boyle, deceased.

*The Democrat.*

In 1854 J. J. Mayes, of Vincennes, came to Sullivan and proposed to start a paper. Joseph W. Wolfe, John S. Davis, Isaac Stewart, Joseph Gray and William Wilson advanced \$25 a piece to make payment on the press and material and endorsed notes for the remainder. The press was capable of printing a sheet five columns to the page. The editor and proprietor took a walk over town the day his first issue was circulated, carrying a gold-headed cane. Whether his style was unpopular with the Democrats of the day, or whether his inspection of the town was unsatisfactory, is not known. However, he left Sullivan at once and returned to Vincennes. In September the Democratic leaders secured a printer named Farley and got out two more issues, Samuel R. Hamill writing the editorials. When the election was over the editorials ceased and the paper suspended.

The chance which brought to the attention of Murray Briggs a stray copy of the *Terre Haute Journal* gave Sullivan its best known editor, who for over thirty years was identified with the fortunes of the *Sullivan Democrat* and really founded and developed that newspaper to its place

of influence in the press of the county. In 1854 Murray Briggs, who had been a printer since the age of fifteen, having entered that employment after breaking his leg, was pursuing his vocation in the usual manner of journeyman printers, without remaining long in one place. The copy of the Terre Haute paper which he happened to pick up one day contained a marked paragraph headed, "An Editor Wanted," and signed with the name of Joseph W. Wolfe. The editor of the paper at Sullivan, Indiana, so the paragraph stated, had disappeared without leaving any security to his numerous creditors except the printing office, and to make this an available asset an editor was needed to continue the paper. Mr. Briggs soon afterward came to Sullivan, bought the office, and from that time forward was proprietor and publisher of the Sullivan *Democrat*. Born in Licking county, Ohio, April 26, 1830, Murray Briggs lived on a farm till the accident which turned him to the printer's trade. In Sullivan county he was a man of prominence. In public office he served as a school examiner, as county auditor, on the town school board, and for a number of years was on the board of trustees of the State Normal School, being president of that body.

When Mr. Briggs came to Sullivan the town contained some frame and log dwellings and three brick houses. Business was confined to Washington street between Court and Section, the five merchants being William Wilson, Merwin and Kelley, Major Isaac Stewart, John Bridwell and James W. Hinkle. Mail was received three times a week from Terre Haute via Fairbanks, Graysville, Merom and New Lebanon. Mr. Briggs rode from Terre Haute as far as Farmersburg on a freight car loaded with ties, the railroad not yet being completed to Sullivan. The line from

the south was at Carlisle and the two ends were joined in November, 1854. The old star mail route was continued about half a year longer, owing to a disagreement between the postmaster general and the railroad company for the transportation of the mails.

The *Democrat* office was then in the upper room of a frame building on the southeast corner of Section and Washington street, the first floor being occupied by Bridwell's general store. Across the street was the Railroad House, kept by J. P. Dufficy. In the spring of 1855 a number of new buildings were erected on the north and west sides of the square, and some of the trees now in the square were planted, each citizen bringing a tree, planting it and afterwards caring for it, the editor of the *Democrat* setting out one near the edge of the north side of the square. In 1859 the *Democrat* was moved to a frame building, and in 1870 the editor building the brick building near the center of the north side of the square, moved the office to the second floor (building now occupied by Dutton's store).

At the close of the first volume the *Democrat* was increased to a six-column folio, and later to seven and then to eight columns. In 1869 a cylinder press was put in, and in 1881 a Campbell press with steam power. The first year Mr. Briggs did all the work, of editor, pressman and printer. Fourteen columns of news matter had to be set up each week, about six columns being advertising. Plate matter was then unknown. On making up the forms, if it was found there was not enough matter to fill the columns, the type was left standing until the editor could secure sufficient copy, and he frequently did not take time to write out his new material but set his news directly into type. The forms were inked with a hand

roller, the sheet, first dampened, was placed upon the form, and by means of a lever the platen was lowered, the same process being gone through twice for each copy of the paper. The mailing took half a day, since each address had to be written by hand.

Mr. Briggs continued as editor until his death, September 18, 1896. No other editor in the state had a record of so long continuous service on the same paper. For about a year the *Democrat* was issued by Murray Briggs' sons, but with the issue of July 19, 1897, passed into the proprietorship of S. Paul Poynter of Greencastle, who has since conducted the *Democrat*. From July, 1883, until Mr. Poynter took charge the *Democrat* was issued semi-weekly. At the latter date the price was reduced from \$1.50 to \$1 a year, the weekly issue was resumed, and the size increased. In 1901 the business of the paper had outgrown the old location, and the proprietor erected the brick building on the south side of Jackson street and moved the office to the first floor. July 17, 1905, was issued the first number of the *Sullivan Daily Times*, this having since been the daily edition of the *Democrat*.

#### *Sullivan Union.*

About April 1, 1860, F. M. Browning began publishing a little paper at Merom called the *Stars and Stripes*, largely devoted to the interests of the college. The same year the material was moved to Sullivan and the venerable John W. Osborn, one of the pioneer newspaper men of western Indiana, issued the *Stars and Stripes* as a loyal administration and Union paper. It was continued only a short while. At the county Republican convention held at the courthouse in February, 1863, a committee was



appointed to consider the propriety of establishing an "unconditional Union" newspaper, but none was established during the war.

The first number of the *Sullivan Union* was issued in August, 1866. The publisher was Isaac M. Brown, a veteran newspaper man of Terre Haute. The subscription price was \$2.50 a year. This was the Republican organ of the county, but was not successful financially. At the editorial convention held in Sullivan in 1882 Mr. Briggs, in a review of local newspaper history, assigned various causes for this—too frequent changes of compositors and a superfluity of editors of differing political views. On one occasion, it was said, the paper contained two editorials on the tariff, one favoring free trade and the other advocating protective duties. Mr. Briggs often called attention to the fact that the publisher of the *Union* and the incumbent of the Sullivan postoffice was the same man, inferring that the postoffice was in some way a perquisite of the Republican newspaper.

In October, 1872, the *Union* was sold to Uriah Coulson, and in March, 1874, James A. Hays became proprietor. Uriah Coulson again bought the *Union* in the spring of 1883, and conducted it a few years. Mr. James Cluggage was proprietor of this paper until March, 1891, when he sold to Arthur Holmes. P. D. Lowe became editor at that time. W. R. Nesbit became proprietor of the *Union* in 1902, and in March, 1904, sold the plant to D. C. Chaney and Robert P. White, the present proprietors.

The *Sullivan County Banner* was established July 1, 1874, by M. B. Crawford and S. B. Marts, as the organ of the independent party. In about a year it was sold to J. H. Stark and T. H. Evans, but in Septem-

ber, 1875, was suspended, and the material was taken by Mr. Crawford to Boonville.

The Carlisle *Register*, established in July, 1876, was largely devoted to the affairs of the Grange. Its founder was William Herron, whose son George was an amateur printer. E. H. Bailey was later employed as printer and in a few months took the entire plant for his pay. He changed the name to the Carlisle *Democrat*, and his brother, W. W. Bailey, became editor. They continued their paper until August, 1879, when they moved the plant to Vincennes and consolidated with the *Reporter*.

In January, 1878, a prospectus was issued for the *True Democracy*, of which George W. Basler was proprietor. The publication was begun in February following, and Colonel Taylor, a writer of ability, furnished the editorials. This was the organ of another faction of the Democratic party. In 1881 the office passed into the hands of Dr. J. C. Bartlett, who changed the name to the *Sullivan Times*. D. O. Groff was a later proprietor, who sold the *Times* in the spring of 1888 to C. W. Welman, who continued as editor and manager of the *Times* until 1896.

The Carlisle *News* is now the principal journal in the south part of the county. Edley W. Rogers, one of the young newspaper men of the state, bought an interest in this paper in April, 1907, and since April, 1908, has been sole proprietor. The *News* is well edited, and is capably managed for the best interests of Carlisle and vicinity.

The Dugger *Journal* was established about 1906, the first numbers being printed in Sullivan. The first issue printed at that town was in February, 1906. Joseph F. Ferry was owner and manager, and in February, 1907, sold the *Journal* to Maurice Shirley, formerly of the *Sullivan Times*.

## CHAPTER XVII.

### DEVELOPMENT OF THE MINERAL WEALTH.

Sullivan county is one of the great coal bins of American industry. For years the railroads and factories have been getting their fuel from the rich stores that underlie the green fields and wooded uplands of this county. Every mile or so along the E. & T. H. Railroad a switch opens a little line that runs back into the country to the mines. And every few hours a train of coal-laden cars is drawn out from this spur to the main road and hurried away perhaps hundreds of miles to factory furnaces. Coal is the larger part of the freight which originates in this county, the labor of producing it is the largest single industry, and the occupation furnishes to the county its most diverse and problematical social elements.

While the coal fields of Sullivan county have been known to exist and have been under development more or less for more than half a century, the fortunes of industrial progress have been such that the county has always been only a fuel storehouse, not also a manufacturing center. A group of factories located at the doors of the mines would seem an economic result, since it would appear to be cheaper to transport the finished material of manufacture rather than the bulky fuel with which to make it. But seemingly no fixed laws govern such matters, and sometimes the raw material of manufacture is brought to the coal

supply, sometimes the fuel is conveyed to location of the raw material, and again factories are located at convenient railroad and labor centers, remote from both sources of fuel and materials of manufacture. Without inquiring into the reasons in this particular case, it is sufficient to state that Sullivan county has been content to produce and send away its millions of tons of coal to manufacturing plants at a distance. At the time of this writing a new phase in these problems has appeared. The plan has been favorably discussed of converting the coal into power at the mines, and conveying the product through electric wires to the factories. By this plan the cost of fuel transportation would be practically eliminated, and it is possible that in a few years the coal on being drawn from the ground will be converted at the mouth of the mine into electric current, and thence flashed across the country to the motors of the cities and factories.

In the account given by David Thomas of his travels up the Wabash valley in 1816 (elsewhere quoted at length), after describing the Turman settlement and prairie, the writer says: "In this neighborhood we have passed a coal mine, which has been recently opened, though the work has been but partially performed . . . As the excavation is made in the channel of a small brook, the torrent, by removing loose earth, doubtless led to this discovery. All the strata of this fossil that we have seen in the western country has appeared near the surface; and it would not surprise me, if it should be brought forth in a thousand places where the shovel and the pickaxe have never yet been employed."

This is the earliest known mention of coal mining in Sullivan county. A general knowledge of the existence of the mineral throughout the Wabash valley was of an earlier date. The use of coal in these early years was entirely local. Occasionally someone would open a surface vein on his farm, and use its product as a substitute for wood. Or a



blacksmith would sometimes burn the mineral coal instead of charcoal. But at that time the timber supply was abundant, and except in these individual instances the burning of coal had not come into vogue. Another obstacle to the general use of coal at that time was the fact that stoves were not yet introduced, and that a practical method of burning coal without the attendant inconveniences of dirt and smoke had not been devised.

Along in the thirties some coal from this vicinity was sent down the river by flatboat to New Orleans. The coal traffic had already begun between the ports of the upper Ohio and the lower Mississippi, and the Wabash valley coal sent downstream was said to command as high a price as the Pittsburg coal.

The railroads and factories are the principal consumers of coal. For domestic use the favorite fuel until within recent years was wood. There was accordingly little use for coal until the era of manufacturing and railroads. The development of the coal industry is closely involved with the evolution of transportation. Until the superior facilities of the railroads were afforded, the production of coal for distant markets was unprofitable, and on the other hand the railroads themselves soon became the largest users of coal. Though it is evident that coal was mined in this county during the first half of the nineteenth century, and that it was transported down the Wabash and perhaps overland for some distance before being placed on the flatboats, it may be stated that the history of coal mining as an industry began with the opening of the first railroad lines through this region. Of some interest in this connection is the statement contained in the report of the president of the Terre Haute & Indianapolis Railroad (Vandalia) in 1852, calling attention to the need of coal cars, since the coal traffic, in his judgment, was certain to be a large part of the railroad's business.

The first railroad in the county was put in operation in 1854. The following year an advertisement in the *Democrat* mentions the first practical coal mine in the county, the property of Hanchett & Kelly, of Farmersburg. This enterprising firm took the coal from a bank several miles from the railroad, and in order to obviate the transportation by wagon from mine to railroad, they built in the latter part of 1855 a wooden railroad, of a three-foot gauge, over the three miles to Farmersburg. Their cars were each of twenty-five bushels capacity, and it was of course necessary to reload into the regular railroad cars. Some years later the mining companies were able to persuade the railroads to build switch tracks out to the mines.

The development of the mining industry went on gradually during the following years. It is only within the past decade that this county has risen to rank among the leading counties of the state in amount of coal production. A newspaper item that appeared in the fall of 1863, while the war was in progress, states that large quantities of coal were being shipped from this county, and that in the machine shops of the Evansville & Crawfordsville Railroad, where the coal was chiefly used, it was considered of a very superior quality. The adjacent counties were far in advance of Sullivan twenty-five years ago in the coal industry. The report of the department of statistics in 1883 gives the total production of the twelve mines of this county as 87,470 tons. In the same year Clay county mined 661,410 tons; Daviess county, 240,000 tons; Parke, 119,567 tons; and Vigo county, 96,710 tons. The average number of employes in Sullivan county in 1883 was 239, and the amount of capital invested was \$74,050.

The remarkable rise of Sullivan county to first place among Indiana counties took place during the present decade. At the beginning of the century it ranked third or fourth, then advanced to second place, and

the state geologist reported (August, 1906) that this county was first, with Greene second and Clay fifth. Estimates which were published in January, 1907, showed that the thirty-seven mines of this county produced an aggregate for the preceding year of 2,262,428 tons. Greene and Vigo counties were next, each having twenty-eight mines in operation. The total production of Greene was 2,243,584 tons, and of Vigo, 1,868,465 tons. The number of miners in the respective counties in the order just mentioned above was 3,666, 3,679 and 3,222.\*

When it is considered that the population of Sullivan county in 1900 was about 26,000, with allowances for the increase of the following six years, it is evident that the 3,666 miners are a large and important element of the total population, and that with their families and dependants they are capable of exerting a very great influence on the social and political life of the county.

Some interesting statistics on the Sullivan county coal deposits are contained in the state geologist's report for 1898. On that authority, it is not difficult to understand the pre-eminence of the coal industry in this county, since it is estimated that 440 square miles of the county area (the whole of it) is underlaid with coal deposits, and that of this the area of workable coal is 365 square miles. In other words, four-fifths of the

\* During 1907 Sullivan county fell to second place in total production, being again passed by Greene county. The figures for that year are contained in the state geologist's report:

	Tons.	Wages.
Greene county .....	2,704,408	\$2,189,153
Sullivan county .....	2,660,333	2,263,994
Vigo county .....	2,581,379	2,246,366

The thirty-four mines mentioned in the inspector's report had a total of 4,016 employees. The principal mining companies of the county at the time of this report were: The Indiana Southern Coal Company, Consolidated Indiana Coal Company, the Vandalia Coal Company, Dering Coal Company, Jackson Hill Coal Company, Shirley Hill Coal Company, Southern Indiana Coal Company, Sullivan County Coal Company, Carlisle Coal and Clay Company, etc., there being sixteen companies in all.

surface of the county has coal deposits underneath which may be made to yield fuel wealth. The estimated total of tons in the deposits was placed at 4,650,000,000 tons, and at the time of the report the estimated amount of workable coal still unmined was 950,000,000 tons. The total annual output of the county at the present time is about three million tons. Unless the demand or the working facilities make possible a production many times as great, it seems probable that Sullivan county will produce coal for several centuries to come. In the report for 1898, the greatest thickness of a coal vein in the county was coal 5 at Alum Cave, ranging from nine to eleven feet.

*Chronological Notes on Coal Industry.*

Jan. 25, 1866—Apparatus is placed for sinking coal shaft at Currysville.

Sept. 20, 1866—Superior quality of coal 5 feet thick is discovered at a depth of 173 feet.

Feb. 10, 1870—Hon. James M. Hanna deeded 160 acres in Curry township to his son B. G. Hanna and son-in-law Henry Overholser, who formed the Standard Coal Co., with a capital stock of \$24,000.

Nov. 22, 1871—A meeting was held at Paxton preparatory to prospecting for coal in that vicinity. In October, 1872, Jasper Davis opened a bank of coal of good quality.

March 2, 1872—Organization of the Carlisle Coal Prospecting Co. completed, with William Orr, president, John Speake, secretary, and James M. Parvin, treasurer. Active work soon after begun.

March 30, 1872—Harry Stipes, Mr. Russell and Jonas Ladson behind a movement at Paxton to open a coal mine. The Paxton Coal Company organized, with capital of \$4,500. Preparing to sink a shaft on farm of Jonas Ladson where the railroad crosses the Caledonia road.

March 12, 1873—Hinkle and Plough sinking a shaft at Pittsburg in Jackson township; Stansil & Co. to commence hoisting coal on Usrey farm; coal of good quality struck at Paxton at depth of 157 feet.



May 21, 1873—Mr. Daniel Case working a mine in Traders Hollow, in Cass township, with 7-foot vein of solid coal, a little better than the Silver Fork coal, hitherto the best in the county. S. R. Hamill and a Mr. Thomas in this township recently, considering the building of a switch from the E. & C. Railroad to the mines.

Aug. 19, 1874—Prospecting shaft at Shelburn, sunk below coal K, was a failure, a vein of inferior soft coal 2 feet 1 inch thick being the prize of their labor.

Aug. 19, 1874—After nine months of work without capital except their own industry and perseverance, the Handford brothers, having dug 201 feet, discovered a vein of good coal 3½ feet thick. In August, 1878, an item stated that the Sullivan shaft of the Handford brothers employed 18 or 20 miners, and that wages had been advanced 10 cents a ton. Their original shaft had been sunk considerably deeper and they were then working a much better vein of coal. Nov. 21, 1878—About 4 p. m. explosion at Handford mine killed eight men, including Thomas and Samuel Handford. The explosion took place in the lower vein and was caused by a careless miner who used powder instead of a pick in opening an air passage, after having been warned of the presence of gas in the passages.

Nov. 11, 1874—Announcement made that special coal trains were being run over the E. & C. R. R. between Terre Haute and Shelburn.

Feb. 26, 1879—Coal in 4-foot vein, at a depth of 75 feet, found in Turman township on the land of F. M. Brown.

Aug. 15, 1884—Currysville Coal Co. of Sullivan county has been incorporated under the laws of the state, the purposes being to develop mining lands and utilize clay in the manufacture of brick. The capital stock, \$50,000, the incorporators being George C. Richardson, Isaac Woolley, M. B. Wilson, John C. Chaney, Henry Hafer.

June 8, 1888—The board of equalization has been wrestling two days with attorney of the New Pittsburg Coal Co. over raising the valuation of the company's property from \$9,000 to \$20,000. The board have raised the valuations of other coal companies several thousand dollars each. The coal plant of the Pittsburg company, including the coke ovens, has cost about \$50,000, and being new, would sell for at least two-thirds of that amount.

Feb. 7, 1883—Miners employed by the Shelburn Coal Co. at Sullivan and Shelburn are out on a strike. The price paid here has been \$1.06 a ton, at Shelburn 90 cents. On Feb. 1st price was reduced at Sullivan to 86 cents and 69 cents at Shelburn because the railroad refuses to pay over one dollar a ton; price has been \$1.25. The difference in price is caused by the difficulty of getting at the coal both here and at Shelburn.

June 15, 1886—Company has been organized to work the mine on the farm of Noah Crawford in Jackson township near the Clay county line. A contract has been made with the E. & T. H. R. R. by which that railroad company binds itself to construct and have in running order by September 1st a branch line from the mine to a point on the main line about one mile south of Farmersburg. The mine was near Alum Cave, at which a house was erected for the miners.

July 12, 1886—Excitement created by the announcement that the drill at the gas well had gone through an immense vein of cannel coal.

Nov. 1, 1887—Stock company has been organized at Pleasantville to mine coal. The town is underlaid with coal of superior quality, and coal that was mined here took the gold medal at the New Orleans exposition.

Feb. 8, 1889—Options have been taken on large bodies of land near Pittsburg in Jackson township by a syndicate of capitalists in which Pres. Mackey (E. & T. H. R. R.) is interested. A branch is to be run from the coal road now in operation between Farmersburg and Alum Cave to Pittsburg.

Feb. 12, 1889—The Superior Coal Company had sunk shaft on Shoefstall farm in south Cass township, built a house for the miners, and put in approved machinery. A branch of the I. & V. R. R. was constructed to the mine, but the coal has since been found to be defective and the mine is to be abandoned. Oct. 25, 1889—Reported that Superior mine is to resume work after idleness of about a year.

May 17, 1889—Town of Pittsburg is surveyed and lots platted.

Feb. 10, 1891—Citizens' meeting held at office of I. H. Kalley to consider the propriety of testing the 22-foot vein of cannel coal said to underlie the town (Sullivan) at a depth of 500 feet. Several committees appointed. March 13—Meeting at the town hall on

March 11th was addressed by Thomas P. Fry of Chicago on subject of boring with diamond drill to test the existence of this coal vein. Dr. Crowder, C. W. Welman, Charles Padgett, C. L. Davis, Wm. Wilson, Stewart Barnes appointed a committee to canvass for subscriptions.

Feb. 27, 1891—The New Lebanon people are prospecting for coal. At Pleasantville a meeting was called in the M. E. church on the 18th to consider the advisability of organizing to drill for coal.

Oct. 20, 1893—The coal company that has lately opened a mine at Star City have bought 2,400 acres of land in the vicinity. The railroad is building a track from Hardersville to the mine.

Jan. 6, 1894—The 84,000 bushels of coal shipped daily from Jackson township require 140 cars of 600 bushels each.

May 19, 1893—The Island Coal Company loses its buildings at the Superior mine by fire on the early morning of May 14th. The loss included a block of coal weighing 5,700 pounds, mined at great expense for exhibition at the world's fair. The mines are the largest in the county. Loss, \$50,000.

Feb. 7, 1893—Jackson Hill Coal Co., or members of that company, who own land in all directions around Hardersville, are sinking another shaft at a point four miles west of Hardersville.

Feb. 17, 1893—First-class coal can always be bought in Sullivan for two dollars a ton.

May 12, 1893—The *Sentinel* of May 9th reports that articles of incorporation of the West Jackson Coal Mining and Transportation Co. were filed; capital stock, \$500,000; directors, John T. Hays, Sullivan, Emerson B. Morgan and W. F. Nisbet of Evansville.

July 4, 1893—A force of workmen have been put at work on the extension of the branch railroad to Hardersville, which will furnish an outlet for coal from the new mine being opened up near the King postoffice, where a town is being laid out to be called Star City. When completed (?) the line will make a loop from Farmersburg circling through Hymera, Hardersville and Star City, striking the main line again at Currysville. The coal business along the line of the I. & I. S. also being developed. A new mine has been opened on the edge of Busseron bottom, another near Dugger,

while the Hancock and Conkle mine is to be improved with new machinery.

Feb. 13, 1894—The Jackson Hill mine at Hardersville was flooded on the 9th by the bursting of the reservoir used to furnish water for running the compressor. Over two hundred men were in the mine at the time, and alarmed by the roar of the water all started for the shaft. In order to reach it they had to cross the sump, in which the water had risen to within 18 inches of the roof. George Sargent, pit boss, took a position near the sump and remained standing in the water until he had seen the last man across.

July 20, 1899—Scarcely a week passes without news of investments in coal lands or of improvements in different plants in the county. The output of 1898 was the largest in the history of the county, nearly 700,000 tons, which is an increase of nearly fifty per cent over 1897. Miners have had steady employment at good wages, and no trouble of importance between them and the operators. All the old companies are running mines at full time. New shafts are being sunk one mile south of Dugger by Ingle and Co. of Evansville, who will employ 100 men and ship 500 tons daily; by the Hymera Company, to a recently tested vein seven feet thick and said to be of first-class quality; by the Jackson Hill Coal and Coke Company, near Eagle, who are lining their shaft with steel and equipping the plant with the latest electrical machinery; at Farmersburg, Noah Crawford, president of the company, is putting in new machinery and enlarging the plant. The E. & T. H. R. R. is building branches to the new mines.

Nov. 9, 1899—The Bunker Hill mine, owned by W. H. Crowder, to be improved with a 160-horsepower electrical mining engine.

Sept. 5, 1901—Seven-foot vein opened at depth of 300 feet at Jackson Hill No. 3, three miles west of Jackson Hill postoffice.

March 6, 1902—Walter Bogle, coal operator of Chicago, has taken options on three or four thousand acres of land northeast of Sullivan, and purchased part of the land.

July 10, 1902—The United Coal Co. incorporated last week, with \$100,000 capital, own 1,200 acres in Cass township along the I. C. Railroad. John T. Hays, Judge D. W. Henry and C. J. Sherman, directors.

July 10, 1902—The United Coal Company are paying cash for



the lands bought in Cass township. In the past week John T. Hays and Judge Henry have paid out \$30,000 and have \$10,000 more to complete the deal for the 1,200 acres.

April 17, 1902—Little Giant Coal Co. organized with a capital of \$100,000, the incorporators being John S. Bays, Cuthbert J. Sherman and Lee F. Bays. Their lands located one mile north of Pleasantville.—Walter S. Bogle Coal Co. has been incorporated, directors being Walter S. Bogle, Norman S. Birkland, Charles W. Gilmore, of Chicago, and John S. Bays and Walter S. Bogle, Jr., of Sullivan. Home office at Sullivan. The mine is two miles north of Sullivan, on the Southern Indiana, on land formerly owned by Dan. S. Herbert, and the company has bought 1,700 acres northeast of Sullivan.

July 10, 1902—The Ehrmisch Coal Co. of Brazil is buying 1,000 acres from D. E. Everhart, Austin Everhart, and T. C., J. H. and Mrs. W. H. Magill, at fifty dollars an acre. Of the 400 acres sold by D. E. Everhart at \$20,000, half of it was bought by him a few years ago for \$2,000, and he paid for it through hard work and thrift.

Aug. 28, 1902—J. D. Terhune made payments yesterday on 800 acres south of the White Rabbit mine, in Cass and Jefferson townships. The stockholders of the new company being mostly residents of Jeffersonville and New Albany, they have called their company the Jefferson Coal Co.

Oct. 2, 1902—Almost the entire east half of the county is now either sold or under option to coal companies. The largest mine is the Bogle, northeast of Sullivan, which is now prepared to ship coal. The shaft is 180 feet deep. This mine will employ 400 men.

Nov. 13, 1902—Another attempt to organize a coal trust fails. The project was in the hands of A. M. Ogle, J. Smith Talley, J. K. Siefert, Jacob Kolsem and other well-known operators, who designed to organize all the mines of the state. The profits of the coal industry for the previous months had been so large that the properties were held at inflated values, and investors would not buy.

Dec. 20, 1902—The largest deal in coal lands yet closed in the county was transacted when the Manufacturers Mining and Fuel Co. secured 1,200 acres of coal lands in Hamilton township, about a mile north of Sullivan. Anderson and Muncie capital behind the deal.

Test drillers had been working there night and day for three months, the tests showing a thickness of five feet in No. 6 vein, five and a third feet in No. 5, and a fair vein of No. 7, with good roof. The Southern Indiana Railroad was projected to pass through the middle of this land, and it was also accessible by the Illinois Central.

Dec. 25, 1902—All the coal lands east of the E. & T. H. R. R. said to be taken up. Jackson township except in the extreme north is honeycombed with the mines of Harder and Hafer, who also operate 1,200 acres for the E. & T. H. R. R., the Ehrmann Coal Company, the Fairbanks Land & Improvement Co., and the New Pittsburg Coal & Coke Co. Cass township has many small operators. D. J. Terhune and the U. S. Steel Corporation have 1,200 acres. The largest mine is now the Wolford in Curry township. Job, McDonald and Matson have 1,200 acres for the Mammoth Co. in Hamilton township, Keller Mining Co. has 1,400 acres, Bogle Mining Co. has 1,280 acres, Green Hill Coal and Mining Co. has 1,000 acres—all in Hamilton township. Drilling has also begun west of the railroad. Land selling at double the price of a year ago.

Jan. 1, 1903—Louis Hicks, representing a syndicate of Indianapolis men, has ordered abstracts of 900 acres just west of the Southern Indiana Coal Co. at Gilmour. William Zellars of Brazil, who recently bought 1,000 acres, has purchased another thousand. Some land is bought complete, at \$50 for "the top," and \$40 for the "bottom."

Jan. 8, 1903—U. S. Steel Corporation is engaged in securing 2,000 acres between Farmersburg and Shelburn. The most serious obstacle now with operators is scarcity of miners.

Jan. 22, 1903—Manufacturers and Consumers Fuel Co. of Anderson has purchased 2,700 acres of coal land in Hamilton township. The coal is badly needed in the gas-belt factories, and shafts will be sunk at once.

Jan. 22, 1903—The Fairbanks Coal Co. has been organized to supply that township, whose residents now have to go east of the E. & T. H. R. R. for their coal, sometimes waiting 24 or 48 hours for their turn. The capital of \$6,000 is all subscribed, and the drilling commenced Monday.

March 5, 1903—The Indiana Harbor R. R. Co. buys 1,980 acres

west of Farmersburg; must mean that that railroad is coming to the county (?).

April 16, 1903—Shaft to be sunk for the E. & T. H. R. R. five miles northeast of Sullivan. New York capitalists buy 6,000 acres in Cass and Haddon townships, and four mines to be opened at once. It is expected that the Monon will run its Summit-Vincennes extension through this tract.

May 28, 1903—James Epperson, state mine inspector, estimates that the mining capacity of coal mines will be increased about 20 per cent this year, due to the increase of facilities. This increase is almost entirely confined to Greene and Sullivan counties.

July 16, 1903—J. K. Dering of Chicago gets 4,000 acres from Paxton to the Jefferson township line.—County Assessor Francis E. Walters estimates that 50,000 acres of mineral land in this county have been sold at an average of \$30 per acre. In nearly all the deeds inflated values have been assigned, and according to the consideration named in the deeds about \$3,000,000 has been paid into the county. At the present time the sales average about 2,000 acres a week.

Aug. 13, 1903—Eleven mines are now under construction within a radius of seven miles north and east of Sullivan.

Aug. 20, 1903—J. Smith Talley, Charles J. Barnes, F. T. Dickason and others have incorporated the Shirley Coal Co., \$650,000 capital, to work in Cass township.

Sept. 10, 1903—According to the state mine inspector, Mr. Epperson, nine-tenths of the coal development in the state is in Sullivan and Greene counties, though fourteen counties ship coal. The Southern Indiana Railroad has done much to give facilities. The annual output in these two counties reaches about 5,000,000 tons.

Oct. 15, 1903—The coal company of Fairbanks have laid out a town of 26 lots, and have voted to call it Dixie, but as there is another postoffice of that name in the state it will have to be changed.

Nov. 19, 1903—Mining operations handicapped by great scarcity of cars, especially on the Southern Indiana.

March 3, 1904—The Indiana & Chicago Coal Co. will sink two shafts to veins 3 and 4. One shaft north of Dugger will ship over the I. C. and Southern Indiana, while the one south of Dugger will

use the Indianapolis Southern and the Indianapolis and Vincennes. The sinking of so many shafts puts Sullivan county in good condition to stand a strike.

Aug. 11, 1904—The Fairbanks Coal Co. about ready for business. Their coal is surpassed in point of combustible matter by only one mine in the state.

Jan. 12, 1905—The largest deal in coal mines yet consummated in Indiana has been or will be closed within the next few days. Twelve or more big mines along the C. & E. I. and the E. & T. H. railroads have been acquired by the Dering Coal Co. of Chicago, formed under the corporation laws of Delaware and capitalized at \$5,000,000. It is understood that the Frisco System is back of the enterprise. Nearly every mine acquired has a capacity of two thousand tons a day. Some of the mines lie near Clinton, and two are in Illinois.

Feb. 2, 1905—Report of state geologist: New shafts sunk in Indiana, 37; in Sullivan county, 10; Clay county, 6; Greene county, 6; abandoned in Indiana, 11; in Sullivan county, 0. Tons mined in Sullivan county for past year, 1,553,338, giving this county third place. Powder used in Greene county, 51,633 kegs; in Vigo county, 71,669 kegs; in Sullivan county, 23,526 kegs. One keg mines 43 tons in Greene county, 24 tons in Vigo, and 65 tons in Sullivan. Sullivan county employs 275 pick miners, 178 machine miners and helpers, 908 loaders, 476 inside day and monthly men, and 283 outside day men. Seventeen mines in operation in Sullivan county. Nine fatal accidents in this county, out of 55 in the entire state.

Feb. 16, 1905—Dering Coal Co. absorbs the Willfred mine in Jackson township, of which Paul Wright was president and largest stockholder.

Feb. 23, 1905—A Chicago syndicate has closed deal for 1,500 acres of land in Curry township, northeast of Shelburn. Market for coal lands is now very dull, owing to the depressed condition of the coal trade.

March 30, 1905—The mining company at Alum Cave is preparing to move its property. The mine has now been burning for three years.

April 6, 1905—Nine mines owned by a company of which J.



K. Seifert of Chicago is the head have been transferred to the Indiana Southern Coal Company of which D. W. Cummins is president. Rumored that John R. Walsh is at the head of the new company. The nine mines, which brought \$2,000,000, include the Shelburn, Citizens, Cummins, Alum Cave, Gilmour, Green Hill, Indiana Hocking and the mines of the Forest Coal Company and the Pittsburg Coal Co.—The mines of the Dering Company have contracts to furnish coal to the C. & E. I., Frisco, part of the Rock Island System, and some plants of the U. S. Steel Corporation.

May 4, 1905—A New York syndicate has bought seven of the largest mines in the county for about \$2,500,000, John S. Bays having managed the deal. The properties include the St. Clair mine of the North Jackson Hill Coal and Mining Co., the White Ash mine of the Hymera Coal and Mining Co., the Star City mine of the Harder and Hafer Coal Mining Co., the Union Coal Co., the Glendora mine of the W. S. Bogle Coal and Mining Co., and the Kellar Coal Co. Ten thousand acres are involved in the transaction, with an annual output of about two million tons. It is certain that the railroads are behind the deal.

May 4, 1905—Indiana Southern Coal Co., of which D. W. Cummins is president and J. K. Seifert secretary and treasurer, has closed deal for 2,200 acres of undeveloped coal land lying south of Jackson Hill in Cass and Jackson townships.

May 19, 1905—John S. Bays is named as the Indiana agent of the Consolidated Coal Co., a Maine corporation capitalized at \$4,000,000, of which \$3,400,000 is the amount represented in Indiana. The company owns eight Sullivan county mines in operation and has leases over several thousand acres in the county. This company is one of three large ones which have been fighting the past year for control of that field. (Indianapolis News.)

May 19, 1905—R. B. Harder and Hymera Coal Co. pay out more than \$80,000 to farmers for coal lands in Jackson township.

May 25, 1905—Thousands of acres in Haddon, Turman, Fairbanks and Gill townships have been optioned for coal in the last few months.

June 22, 1905—Lattas Creek Coal Co. buys out Keystone Coal Co. and about \$80,000 worth of coal lands besides, all in northern Cass township. Indiana Southern Coal Co. supposed to be back of the transaction.

July 13, 1905—The Vandalia Coal Co., the largest of six big combinations and capitalized at \$7,000,000, is buying in Sullivan county the Island Valley Coal Co., the Indiana & Chicago, the Indianapolis and Sullivan, the Superior mine, and the property of the J. Smith Talley Coal Co., containing 2,200 acres of undeveloped land.

July 20, 1905—Seventy mines in Indiana have now been merged into six big operating companies.

July 27, 1905—Pennsylvania capitalists have drill at work on the Joe Akin farm near Carlisle. The Frisco System has leased 2,000 acres near there.

Sept. 7, 1905—Mines Nos. 1 and 2, or Consolidated 31 and 32, at Hymera, were shut down a day or two ago, and it is reported they will not resume work for thirty days. The only reason so far as the public knows is that there is no market for the coal and that the company can not get it hauled into Chicago. The Hymera people hope that when Walsh gets his road into Chicago that such difficulties will be solved.

Sept. 14, 1905—Better times are predicted as result of merger. The Vandalia Coal Co., which is the holding company of the Vandalia Railroad, assumes control of eighteen coal companies distributed in Vigo, Clay, Greene, Sullivan and Knox counties.

Nov. 20, 1905—Coal mining industry looks brighter at Dugger. Keeley mine, which has been closed since last August for repairs, has opened with a small force. New shaker screens and endless rope system of haulage have been installed so that capacity of mine has been increased. New steel tippie at Caledonia soon to be completed.

Dec. 21, 1905—Secretary of the U. M. W. of A. reports that the mines in the 11th district work only about four days a week.

Jan. 6, 1906—The blockades are lifted and car shortage felt at only a few places. The railroads handled more Indiana coal in December than in the same month last year.

Jan. 11, 1906—The Paragon Coal Co., capitalized at \$5,000,000, has been organized at Terre Haute with headquarters there. To operate mines about Shelburn and Farmersburg.

Jan. 25, 1906—The coal trade in Illinois and Indiana less satisfactory than last year. The shot-firers bill caused a shut-

down of eight days throughout the state, the first general shut-down since 1897.

Feb. 1, 1906—Government tests at St. Louis show that Indiana coal is the greatest steam-producing coal in the country.

Feb. 15, 1906—The Consolidated Indiana Coal Co. sell some large mines in this county to the Dering Coal Co. Understood to mean that the Rock Island interests have assumed control of both companies.

### *The Strike of 1906.*

April 5, 1906—The miners working in the mines owned by members of the operators' association were all out on a holiday April 2. Many were in town making the most of what is expected to be a few days' strike. No Sullivan county operators have yet signed the 1903 scale, but some have signified their willingness, and operators in other parts of the state are signing.

April 19, 1906—Miners have been idle two weeks, and business men complain. There is not the usual amount of drunkenness. Squire High of Fontanet asked the brewing companies not to follow their former custom of sending free beer to aid the miners, and the brewers heeded the request. In former years there was much carousing during a period of idleness among the miners. The Sullivan County Coal Co. at Dugger has signed the scale, being the third member of the operators association to do so, and for this it will probably be expelled from the association. The Carlisle Clay and Coal Co. had signed previously, and both mines are open and a full force at work.

May 10, 1906—The fear that the railroads would refuse to furnish cars deters many small operators from signing scale. District President O'Connor furnishes statement to show that at least ten large owners have signed.

May 24, 1906—The joint convention of miners and operators fails to agree. The miners declare that it would be unfair to arbitrate as long as enough operators have signed to produce one-fourth of the regular output of the state.

June 14, 1906—Agreement is reached by the strike committee of the Indiana miners and the operators on June 13th, after a ses-

sion of 17 days. Four hours after signing of the agreement the whistle of Citizens Mine announced work to begin following day. The men to get the 1903 scale, but agree to some changes of conditions. The 1903 scale means an increase of five and a half percent over the scale of 1904-05. About 52 mines had agreed to the scale between April 1 and June 1, and about 3,000 miners were at work before the final agreement.

July 19, 1906—The Carlisle mine resumes work after being closed two weeks, new machinery having been installed to increase the output from 200 tons to 2,000 tons a day.

Aug. 2, 1906—There is no demand for coal, and the miners of the 11th district are practically without work. The only mines working are those under contract to supply manufacturing concerns.

Oct. 4, 1906—The government reports five important mining consolidations in Indiana during 1905. The Vandalia took the Island Coal Co. in Sullivan and Greene counties, the Indiana & Chicago Coal Co. in Sullivan county, as well as many mines in other counties. The Dering company bought the J. Wooley Coal Co., Brouillets Creek Coal Co., Wilfred Coal Co., Indian Fuel Co., W. S. Bogle Coal and Mining Co., Willow Grove Coal Co., in Sullivan, Vigo and Vermillion counties. The Consolidated Indiana Coal Co. merged the properties of the North Jackson Hill Coal Mining Co., the Sullivan County Coal Mining Co., the Union Coal Co., Harder and Hafer Coal Mining Co., Hymera Coal Mining Co., and Kellar Coal Co., all but one being in Sullivan county. The Indiana Southern Coal Co. took over the Indiana Hocking Coal Co., the Citizens Coal Co., the Cummings Coal Co., the Rainbow Coal Co., New Pittsburg Coal and Coke Co., Greene Hill Coal and Mining Co. in this county. Many other properties were brought under one management by the transactions of the large companies in adjoining counties.

March 14, 1907—Nearly every mine in the 11th district running on half time on account, it is claimed, of no demand for coal. Miners are facing one of the most serious propositions in the history of the district.

April 23, 1907—All joint traffic rates on coal existing between the Southern Indiana and the Big Four railroads to sixty cities on the latter road have been suspended. It is understood that many if



not most of the thirty mines on the Southern Indiana will be compelled to cease operations. Many mines are already closed for repairs, lack of work, great amount of coal on hand, and no market. Because of the withdrawal of the rates no coal from the 11th district is sent into the gas belt.

March 14, 1908—16,000 miners in the 11th district vote to strike. The fining system, docking, delivery of powder, and top wages are the subjects of contention. Miners claim that they are fined for failure to live up to contract, when there is no corresponding penalty for the operators. It is considered an inopportune time for strike, since there is no demand for coal.

June 30, 1908—T. E. Willard, the government expert in the employ of the geological survey, has visited and examined all the mines in the county except a few small ones. He thinks the mines in Indiana far superior to those of other states in methods used. West Virginia is the only state outside of Pennsylvania where he has seen mines in the same class with those in Sullivan county so far as methods go.

#### *Oil and Gas.*

During the present decade Sullivan county has attained to some importance in the production of oil and gas. Its oil wells have proved comparatively small as measured with the oil districts of adjacent counties, both in this state and in Illinois, but the discovery of gas about two years ago has earned for the county the title of the "Sullivan county gas field."

Shortly after the close of the Civil war some interest was taken in the deposits of oil which were disclosed in the Wabash valley. At Terre Haute a deep well, being sunk by Chauncey Rose, struck oil in small quantities, but the discovery was not appreciated. This was in 1865, only a few years after Drake and his associates had begun the development of the oil regions about Titusville, Pennsylvania. The use of the new fuel and its appearance in the markets of the world were regarded with much interest, and the discussion of the oil deposits, the methods of ob-

taining it from wells, and its value as a natural resource attracted attention everywhere. So it is not strange that the possibility of oil deposits in Sullivan county was often considered, and evidences of oil would attract popular attention. The first published item of this kind so far as known was contained in the Democrat of February 9, 1865, in which it is stated that a well of drinking water on the lot of Mr. Otto is affected by the taste of petroleum, and that indications of oil appear on the surface of the water after it has stood for awhile. An intention was expressed to bore for oil in that locality.

The following year (1866) proved to be one of much excitement over the oil development in this county. In January it was reported that the Oil and Mining Company of Celina, Ohio, had leased 1,100 acres of land about ten miles northwest of Sullivan with the purpose of boring for oil. M. Beardsley of Merom was one of the incorporators of the company.

A little later two companies were formed to test for oil. In one of the bores made, gas was discovered in such quantities that the work could not be continued and the well was plugged. Natural gas was not yet in favor as fuel.

In May the Sullivan County Oil and Mining Company secured the lease of a well which had been bored by the railroad company some six or eight years before, near the Sullivan depot. After being sunk about 600 feet, the well was abandoned. At this depth, stated the Democrat, a peculiar substance had been found which at the time was unknown, but which was now believed to be petroleum.

The interest in oil soon died out, and the work of prospecting was not productive of any practical results. More than three decades passed before attention was again paid to the oil and gas deposits of this section of the state.

The renewal of the efforts to develop the oil and gas deposits of the county began with the opening of the present century, about coincident with the opening of the western Indiana and eastern Illinois fields. But actual operations in this county are still more recent. At the close of 1904 what was known as the Sullivan Gas and Oil Company (J. P. Johnson, of Princeton, president; F. J. Biggs, Princeton, secretary, and Sam A. White, of Sullivan, treasurer) leased a large amount of land in the western part of the county, and test wells were sunk in some places. Oil was discovered on the McGrew farm east of Farmersburg, and gas was struck at a depth of 250 feet by Harder and Hafer, southeast of that town.

The most important development of gas, which brought into general use the term "Sullivan county gas field," centered in the striking of gas on the Jamison farm about two miles west of Sullivan, where the presence of derricks, the working of the pumps and the pipes at the roadside are evidence of a prosperous gas field. On the night of April 16, 1907, the drill penetrated to the gas, and all night long the well continued to blow out oil and stone. A few days later tests showed 300 pounds rock pressure, said to be within 50 pounds of the strongest well in the state. The Jamison farm has since continued the largest scene of operations in this county, both for gas and oil. During the year half a dozen wells were put down, and in November wells 4, 5 and 6 were reported to yield about forty barrels of oil a day.

The following items from the *Democrat* indicate the progress of the oil and gas development:

Aug. 17, 1905—The Jones Oil and Gas Company, the largest independent operators in the state, have leased 2,100 acres near Dugger, and 5,000 acres near Carlisle; boring to begin soon.

Dec. 28, 1905—Gas has been struck at a depth of 535 feet by the Fairbanks Gas and Coal Co.; Jan. 4, 1906—the gas has been piped to the engine boiler and boring continued, in search of oil.

May 3, 1906—The well on the farm of J. W. Bowen near Fairbanks was shot at depth of 440 feet, and said to have a capacity of ten or fifteen barrels a day.

June 7, 1906—Articles of incorporation of the Carlisle Oil and Gas Co. filed; \$10,000 capital at one dollar per share. To drill on the farms of Finley Collins and William R. Colvin southeast of Carlisle.

July 16, 1906—Egypt Oil and Gas Co. files articles of incorporation to work in Indiana and Illinois. Sullivan men backing the company.

Dec. 27, 1906—Company formed at Farmersburg. Its first test well at depth of 1,900 feet yields few indications of oil.

Feb. 21, 1907—A little gas and some oil found at the well on the Julius Hoseman farm southeast of Merom. Well was drilled to 1,100 feet, then plugged to 700 feet where a layer of oil sand had been found, and was then shot; April 11—estimated that from 10 to 25 barrels of oil are now flowing from this well, with a large quantity of salt water.

April, 1907—Work has begun on T. H. Mason farm, south of the Jamison farm, and a company of local men leased about 1,100 acres near Sullivan and began drilling on the Frank Mason farm south of town.

Jan. 9, 1908—Hamilton Oil and Gas Co. has sold 1,000 barrels of oil to a Terre Haute firm from the Jamison wells.

April 25, 1907—Good flow at the Barnard well 100 feet south of the Jamison.

May 23, 1907—Oil sand struck at the Park Osborne well five miles northwest of Sullivan at depth of 527 feet.—Bailey McConnell, president of the Carlisle Oil and Gas Co., has signed over all the leases held by them on 4,000 acres southeast of Carlisle to the Union Oil Co. of Pennsylvania.

April 9, 1908—The Big Four Oil and Gas Co. of Bridgeport, Illinois, has leased hundreds of acres near Farnsworth and begun the building of the biggest rig in the county.

May 7, 1908—The Crawford Oil Co., after spending thousands of dollars and months of time, is about to abandon the territory east of Paxton.

June 18, 1908—A corps of surveyors now at work in Sullivan county for the Tide Water pipe line.



## CHAPTER XVIII.

### MONEY AND BANKING.

Sullivan county has no banking institutions within its boundaries during the pioneer history. Yet the residents of the county were not without banking facilities, though to get them it was necessary to go to Terre Haute on the north or Vincennes on the south.

The absence of a bank in any considerable center of trade would in this modern age be felt as a serious drawback. It is almost a daily occurrence for the merchant and business man of Sullivan county to buy the credit of his local bank for the purpose of transacting business with distant centers. Instead of using his individual credit to pay for goods in the wholesale markets of Chicago or St. Louis, he uses the official paper and name of the local bank, which is a recognized medium for such transactions. Any other method of doing business would result in delays and losses that would not be tolerated in this commercial age.

It was very different in the early years of Sullivan county. The business of the community was then primitive and simple; now it is complex.

What constituted the business activities of the county during the years following its first settlement? It is possible to answer this question without omitting any important interest.

The supply and demand which comprehended the trade and industry

of the time were limited to the articles that are needed by society in a frontier condition. The demand was for things to eat; clothing and shelter; and the implements that were used in the field, in the house and in the mills. The local production of things included under these heads was almost sufficient to satisfy the demand. The farmer grew his wheat and corn, from which his bread was made; raised the hogs from which came his supply of pork or obtained a considerable portion of his meat from the wild game in the woods. The forest supplied material for building and furniture. The flax, and in early days, the cotton, raised in the fields, was converted by housewifely diligence and skill into garments for all members of the family.

When the simple economy of the pioneers is considered, it is surprising that the amount of trade was as large as it was. Like many Robinson Crusoes, the settlers lived by consuming only what nature and their own efforts produced.

Nevertheless, there was some degree of classification of industry. The individual pounded or ground his corn with his own crude implements only until the first mill was built. The flour mill was the most important institution in the new country, and with its establishment came the miller, who depended on the patronage of his neighbors to supply him with the means of subsistence.

Though so much was grown and wrought on the farm, there was still necessity for a central place where the rarer articles of common use might be kept for sale. The stock in trade of the early merchant was limited in variety, yet the trade in staples was sufficient to make many a fortune for men who engaged in such trade during the early years.

This limited business was carried on mainly upon the principles of barter and exchange and credit. The merchant had more accounts then, comparatively, than now. And when settlement was made, instead of

satisfying the account with a check or cash, the debtor very usually disposed of his wheat or corn, or live stock, through the merchant, and accounts were squared with very little money being used in the transaction.

It was of course necessary that "a balance of trade" should be maintained—that the goods imported for use in the county should be balanced by goods of equal value exported from the county, or the difference had to be made good by cash payment. But for a number of years the balance was kept very even. The amount of grain and peltries and lumber, etc., sent down the river to the world markets, measured very exactly the amount of goods that would be brought back in return. Capital came in slowly and was very quickly absorbed.

The result of all this was that very little money—meaning by that silver and gold and its substitutes—circulated in Sullivan county. The wealth of the country was held in the forests, in the fields and granaries, and in the stores. There was no surplus, no large amount of coin kept on hand to meet the exigencies of daily commerce; hence there was little need for a bank as a place of safe deposit. And since the few merchants, who did the business for the community, had individual credit at the large trade centers, there was little need for an institution that would furnish exchange and credit to distant cities. Money being unknown, banks had no cause to exist.

Says W. H. Smith in his "History of Indiana": "In the early settlement of the territory, such a thing as money was practically unknown, peltries being used as the only currency. All values were based upon what the article would bring in coon skins, muskrat skins and other furs. Such a state of affairs could only exist in a sparsely settled country, where manufactures were unknown, and where the only trading done was for the actual necessities of life. In those early days the settlers

raised on their little farms about all they needed to sustain life, and their purchases were limited to salt, iron, dye-stuffs and a few articles of that character. For those they exchanged wheat, corn, hogs and peltries."

As population increased and the social and industrial organization became more complex, came a demand for currency that would represent values, and could be subject to the flexible uses of exchange without the more cumbersome and primitive methods hitherto in vogue. The gold and silver medium could not be obtained. A paper currency was sought instead. Originally intended, on its face value, to represent actual wealth. Practice soon produced a wide variance between the shadow and the substance, and instead of representing wealth actually existing, this paper currency soon came to represent only "a promise to pay," with no security as a basis.

Though such currency might be honestly issued to represent current values, it often happened that the security declined in value, so that when the "promise to pay" returned to its author, the latter found no resource to satisfy his note, which could be redeemed only at a large discount.

Thus the period during the war of 1812 was one of prosperity, owing to the increase of values caused by the war and the large sums disbursed by the government. At the close of hostilities, the war values suddenly declined and the enormous issue of notes representing such confidence and prosperity became nearly worthless paper in the hands of the holders, who had no recourse against the issuing institutions, which were in large number swept away during the panic.

#### *State Bank.*

In 1814 the territorial legislature of Indiana had chartered a banking institution at Vincennes, with a capital stock of five hundred thousand dollars, and one at Madison, with a capital of seven hundred and fifty



thousand dollars. The bills issued on this capital were returned during the panic, but only a small part was redeemed.

In the first constitution of the state of Indiana appeared a provision that "there shall not be established or incorporated in this state any bank or banking company, or moneyed institution, for the purpose of issuing bills of credit or bills payable to order or bearer: Provided that nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to prevent the general assembly from establishing a state bank and branches."

Here was the legal sanction for the State Bank of Indiana, one of the most notable institutions in the early history of banking. The bank at Vincennes was allowed to retain its charter, but on January 1, 1817, this bank was adopted as a branch of the state bank.

The career of the first state bank is described by W. H. Smith in his "History of Indiana": "The bank thus enlarged and with such increased powers, at once entered upon an era of mismanagement that soon wrought widespread ruin. In 1821 its reckless management caused the general assembly to authorize legal proceedings to cancel its charter. Among other things charged and proved were, the contracting of debts to double the amount of the deposits; the issuing, with a fraudulent purpose, of more paper than the bank had means for redeeming; the declaring and paying of large dividends to the stockholders, while the bank was refusing to pay specie for its notes; and embezzling \$250,000 deposited by an agent of the United States in the bank for safe keeping. The notes of the bank and its branches, except those of the bank at Madison, became wholly worthless."

The failure of the first state bank occurred during a period of profound financial depression during the early '20s. For ten years or more the circulating medium in Indiana consisted largely of what were

called "shinplasters," being the individual notes of local merchants and business men, and the bills of banks in other states.

During this period the state sought to give aid to the financial situation by entering upon a great plan of internal improvements, consisting of canals and railroads, that would provide a magnificent system of transportation. In the speculative era that followed, when values were advanced with little regard for actual substance, the second state bank of Indiana was founded.

During the whole of its existence from 1834 to 1857, the credit of the State Bank of Indiana was not exceeded by any bank in the United States. Its notes went current from lakes to gulf, and its capital and credit were used to develop business and agricultural resources of the state. Its regular annual dividends for twenty years averaged ten to twelve percent, and at the expiration of its charter there was a surplus of one hundred percent to divide among the stockholders.

The State Bank was chartered in the winter of 1833-34. It was not a central bank with numerous branches, but the institution consisted of the different branches under control of a central governing body. Thirteen branches in all were organized, each branch having its own president and other officers. The semi-annual examinations by the state president was very searching, and kept the branches in a safe and healthy condition, with the result that only one case of fraud was ever found in all the thirteen banks. The capital of each branch was \$160,000, one half of which was furnished by the state. As there were no capitalists in the state at that time, the charter provided that every stockholder who paid \$18.75 on each \$50 share, should receive as a loan from the state the remaining \$31.25 so as to fully pay up the stock. The loan was secured by bond and mortgage on real estate, at six percent interest. The full amount of the annual dividends was then credited on the loan,

and in one of the branches at least the loan was thus paid off seven years before the expiration of the charter, and the borrowing stockholder received for that period the full amount of the dividends on his shares. To pay for its half of the stock and its advances to stockholders, the state had issued and sold in London its coupon bonds at five percent, these being secured by the state stock in the banks and liens upon borrowers' stock. The state could have retired all these bonds before maturity, but although the state credit was very low in and after 1837, these bonds commanded a handsome premium and could not be reached. The state's share in the banks, bonds and mortgages and sinking fund was so well managed that not a dollar was lost and the state made a net profit of nearly \$3,000,000 by its connection with the bank revenues which became the basis for the large school fund.

The capital of the thirteen branches was a little over two millions, but the aggregate of the loans sometimes amounted to ten or fifteen millions in a year. There was one president, cashier and board of directors for the whole state, this central body having absolute control over the branches with power to put any branch in liquidation, which was exercised but once, with only a temporary suspension. The general board was composed of splendid men and able financiers, and through their management the bank had a career such as few banks of the country surpassed. The State Bank of Illinois, chartered in the same year, disastrously failed in 1837. The Indiana Bank suspended specie payment in 1837, as did every other bank in the country except the Chemical of New York, but it always furnished its customers with New York exchange at one percent premium for its own or other bankable notes, and also never failed to supply the home demand for coin, which was then silver.

The State Bank of Indiana, being a monopoly, there was a great

demand as its charter was expiring for a free bank act. Such banks were authorized by the new constitution. The agitation for a new bank law also resulted in a bill providing for the establishment of the "Bank of the State of Indiana," as the title was then made to read. The bill was vetoed and passed over the governor's veto, and became a law in 1855. The state could not be a stockholder in the new institution. There were to be twenty branches, each with \$100,000 capital. It was a good franchise, but those who had procured it did not intend to operate a bank, and it passed under the control of the former managers of the old State Bank and other citizens, with Hugh McCulloch as president. The new bank began business in 1857, and started out under the most favorable auspices, but the panic of 1857 tested its integrity to the utmost. Only one bank in the east, and in the west the Bank of Kentucky and the Bank of Indiana alone escaped the necessity of suspending specie payment. The Indiana bank's notes commanded a premium, but the result of that was a drain on the bank's specie from the notes coming from other states. To have declined to redeem notes in specie on demand would have caused the forfeiture of the charter, which was too valuable to sacrifice. The branches made a gallant struggle, and had nearly exhausted their cash resources when on the fifth week of the panic there was a change for the better in the financial outlook, gold declined in the east, and the Indiana notes ceased to come home for redemption. The charter was safe. The effects of the panic were overcome in from two to three months, and the business of the branches was prosperous until the war broke out. Then ensued a great depression and a renewed demand for gold. Under the direction of Mr. McCulloch, the branches proposed to weather the storm, drew in their circulation as much as possible, arranged with depositors that deposits in gold should be paid in gold and in bank notes with notes. The issue



of legal tender notes in 1862 made them a substitute for coin, and the question arose, could the bank save its charter by redeeming with legal tender notes instead of gold. A test case was hurried through the circuit court and supreme court of the state. The decision of the courts was that legal tender notes was lawful money in the terms of the bank's charter.

The Bank of the State of Indiana successfully passed through all financial storms, and when Mr. McCulloch resigned in 1863 to become comptroller of the currency it had upwards of three million dollars in gold coin in its vaults. With the passage of the National Banking Act, all notes of state and private banks were taxed ten percent, which was practically prohibitive and caused nearly all these banks to surrender their charters and either go out of existence or take out national charters.

The Civil war made enormous demands upon the national treasury, and the government within a few months after the beginning of the war was seriously embarrassed by the difficulties of providing funds from the regular sources. Permission to duly empowered organizations upon certain conditions to put into circulation bills furnished them by the government, their redemption in specie to be guaranteed and regulated by the government, was the means of making the national debt an available capital for banking purposes that was proposed by Secretary Chase, and out of which grew the National Banking Act. In order to give the national currency thus created preference over other forms of credit currency, it was proposed to tax the issues of state banks to such an extent that these institutions could not profitably issue notes. Naturally the state banks opposed the measure. But the necessity of securing "one sound, uniform circulation of equal value throughout the country upon the foundation of national credit combined with private capital," forced

Congress to act, and a bill passed the senate February 12, 1863, and the house eight days later, and the National Currency act received the signature of the president, February 25, 1863. While the practical results of the act did not realize expectations during the war, the national banking system eventually remedied the great financial bills from which the country suffered under the miscellaneous and loose methods of state banking.

In Sullivan county, during the period which has been discussed, there were no banks. In Terre Haute a branch of the State Bank had been established in 1834, and its bills and facilities were without doubt employed in the transaction of business in Sullivan county. Vincennes was also a banking center for this county.

#### *Sullivan Banks.*

The history of the oldest banking institution of Sullivan county involves the names of some of its oldest citizens and business men. The Crowders, the Hokes, the Duttons and Crawleys are family names that have at various times been associated with the oldest bank, and Jacob F. Hoke and William H. Crowder, Sr., have been identified with the Sullivan State Bank since the original institution was established as the Sullivan County Bank. Mr. Crowder was president of the bank from 1875 until 1897. In the latter year, the Farmers State Bank of Sullivan and the Sullivan County Bank having been consolidated, Mr. Hoke, who had owned a controlling interest in the State Bank since 1892, became president of the new institution. Mr. Hoke shares with Mr. Crowder the honor of being the oldest bankers of Sullivan county, and while Mr. Hoke is president of the bank, the elder Mr. Crowder is a director and W. H. Crowder, Jr., is cashier of the Sullivan State Bank.

The charter for the first national bank in this county was granted in

January, 1872, and on the 9th of that month the bank was organized at Sullivan by the election of five directors, who chose as their executive officers, Mr. H. J. Barnard president, and Medford B. Wilson cashier. In April, 1874, Mr. Wilson on leaving Sullivan sold his stock to Thomas K. Sherman, who became cashier in his stead. The three-story bank building on Washington street was built in 1873. The First National Bank of Sullivan went into voluntary liquidation January 8, 1878.

After the liquidation of the First National, the Farmers National was established and was operated under national charter until 1884, when it became the Farmers State Bank, and continued thus until merged in the Sullivan State Bank.

The Sullivan County Loan and Trust Company filed articles of incorporation, July 28, 1903, the directors for the first year being C. L. Davis, A. E. Hazelrigg, C. J. Sherman, J. K. Smock, J. R. Riggs, C. H. Edwards, W. C. Jamison. The capital stock of this institution was placed at \$100,000.

The People's State Bank of Sullivan was organized in the fall of 1906, the principal stockholders being George R. Dutton, formerly cashier of the Sullivan State Bank, and Joshua Beasley, of the abstract firm of Beasley and Brown. The first directors, elected in October, 1906, were John T. Hays, William Powell, Joseph T. Akin, Joshua Beasley and George R. Dutton.

The National Bank of Sullivan was organized in 1900, and has a capital of \$100,000. Charles L. Davis is president of this bank.

#### *Carlisle.*

Carlisle had no banking facilities until 1892. In that year E. W. Akin, Sr., Joseph T. and Charles T. Akin, all members of the well-known old family of that name, organized the People's Bank of Carlisle. A pri-

vate bank, it has filled a large want in the business community and has received the hearty support of all citizens, whose confidence in the integrity and reliability of the owners is complete. Originally the bank had a capital of \$25,000, but on the reorganization in 1902 this was raised to \$35,000, and in 1907 again increased to \$50,000. Edgar W. Akin, Sr., has been president since the foundation of the bank, and his son, E. W. Akin, Jr., is cashier.

During the past decade banks have been organized in other centers of the county, though previous to that time it was customary for one or more of the business men of the town to manage a small private banking business. At Shelburn is the First National Bank, organized in 1904. The Hymera State Bank was organized in 1906, R. L. Ladd being president. At Farmersburg two private banks were organized about 1902, and in 1905 one of them became the Citizens State Bank, with W. S. Baldridge president. The Dugger State Bank was organized in 1904, Joseph Moss and William R. Dugger being those chiefly interested.

#### *Building and Loan Associations.*

The first organization of a building and loan association in Sullivan county was effected at Sullivan in February, 1883. Its capital stock of \$200,000 was divided into shares of \$200 each. The directors for the first year were: W. H. Crowder, Joseph P. Stratton, Murray Briggs, M. B. Wilson, W. G. Young. The executive officers were Murray Briggs, president; William H. Crowder, vice president; James Burks, secretary; Pat. McEneny, treasurer.

Two years after the organization it was reported that the stockholders had paid \$26.40 on each share, the present value of the individual shares being estimated at \$34.83, and that an aggregate sum of \$10,000 had been



loaned. At the end of six years, about \$80 had been paid on each share, and the value of the shares had risen to about \$125 apiece.

In the latter part of January, 1889, a building, savings and loan association was formed on a new plan, known as the Bedford plan of issuing stock in different series. Nine directors were to be elected each year, those chosen for the first being W. H. Crowder, B. F. Knotts, I. H. Kalley, C. J. Sherman, R. H. Crowder, A. B. Williams, William Willis, A. J. Stewart, Sol T. Wolfe. About two years later, in September, 1891, it was voted that borrowers in the old association could have their mortgages cancelled by paying thirty dollars on each share, and that those who had stock which had not been used as a basis for borrowing could surrender the same and receive \$162 a share.

The report of the new association, three years after its organization, stated that 1,336 shares had been issued, loans had been made on 454, and the present capital was represented in first-mortgage notes of face value \$45,400. Through the means afforded by the association, 49 persons had purchased homes, 42 had built new dwellings; and of the loans for these purposes, 72 had been made in Sullivan and 19 in the surrounding towns and country.

A building and loan association at Farmersburg was incorporated in February, 1893, with a capital stock of \$100,000. The first directors were: W. S. Baldrige, William Lash, R. H. Van Cleve, T. W. Kennedy, W. Foote, S. W. Brown, George Heap.

## CHAPTER XIX.

### THE PRINCIPAL CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS.

*Methodist Churches.*—In 1885 Rev. M. S. Heavenridge, then pastor in charge of the Methodist church at Sullivan, prepared an historical paper which reviewed the work and growth of the Methodist church in this county from the beginning of the century. This paper, which was published in the *Democrat* of August 18th, is the basis for the following account.

Up to 1818 the country all along the line of the E. & T. H. Railroad, from Vincennes to Terre Haute, was almost an unbroken wilderness. Among the families then settled here were some Methodists, most of whom had been converted in the great revivals in Kentucky and Tennessee, and who were formed into circuits which were visited at great intervals. Peter Cartwright, the famous itinerant evangelist, had organized the Vincennes circuit in 1808, which in 1811 extended from the Ohio river north as far as there was any white population on the Wabash. In 1821 the Vincennes circuit was divided, and the newly formed Honey Creek circuit embraced all the country on the Wabash from Terre Haute to the Knox county line. The appointments in this circuit in 1825 were—Carlisle, Johnsons', Robbins', Walls', Weir's, Wilkins', Merom, Bonds', and Graham's, in Sullivan county, and Jackson Jr., Jackson Sr., Rays' and Barns', in Vigo county.

At the session of the Missouri conference in 1821, Samuel Hamilton was appointed presiding elder for Indiana, and David P. Chamberlain was sent to the Honey Creek circuit, being succeeded in the fall of 1822 by Hackaliah Verdenbergh, who remained one year. In 1823 William Beauchamp was appointed presiding elder and Samuel Hull preacher in charge. At the quarterly meeting of April 17, 1824, at Jonathan Graham's, a committee consisting of Joe M. Baker, John Jean, Bailey Johnston, Jonathan Webb and Meshack Hunt was appointed to meet the trustees of the Carlisle meeting house for the purpose of making a purchase there if possible. In October, 1824, William Beauchamp died at Paoli, and James Armstrong succeeded him. Charles Holliday was appointed presiding elder in 1825, and Richard Hargraves preacher in charge. About this time the Honey Creek circuit was again merged with the Vincennes circuit. The total amounts paid by the different classes in this year was \$34.37½, the salary of the presiding elder for the year was \$50 and \$5 house rent. Stephen R. Beggs was the next preacher in charge and S. C. Cooper assistant preacher. In 1827 John Miller and Ashael Risley were appointed to the circuit.

In 1828, on the division of the Vincennes circuit, the Carlisle circuit was formed. In 1829 William H. Smith and Boyd Phelps were named as preachers in charge, with twelve local preachers—Samuel Hull, John S. Cartwright, James Holmes, Thomas Springer, Owen Creasy, Daniel T. Pinkston, Joseph Joslin, Joshua Walls, Jesse Graham, Martin Hale, Wiley Wood, and Benjamin Bushnel. As exhorters were named, James F. Harney, Nathan Hinkle, Robert H. Springer, William Medarious, Garrett Davis, William Gill.

In 1830 Richard Hargraves and Daniel M. Murphy were preachers in charge, succeeded in the fall of 1831 by Enoch G. Wood and William Taylor. The following winter was one of great severity. Presiding Elder

Lock, while returning home, found the Wabash gorged with ice, and after waiting two or three days he and a companion resolved to break a channel for the ferry boat. When near the opposite shore Lock lost his balance and fell into the water, but recovered himself and about sunset succeeded in reaching shore. After riding ten miles to the nearest house, he arrived speechless and frozen to the saddle. He was cared for by the family, but continued his journey in a few days. The exposure laid the foundation for consumption, from which disease he died July 15, 1834.

James Thompson was presiding elder and William Smith preacher in charge of the Carlisle circuit in 1832. For the following seven years there are no records, except that in 1835 Rev. A. Wood was presiding elder of the Vincennes district and in 1837 was succeeded by John Miller.

In 1840 the New Lebanon circuit was organized, with H. S. Talbott presiding elder, and S. H. Rogers preacher. The pastor labored faithfully till September 3, 1841, when he was laid to rest in the Burnett graveyard.

In 1847 (?) a committee (J. R. Williams, Solomon Walls and John Mahan) reported that the cost of a house of worship for Sullivan would be \$380, and plans were then made for a frame building, 35 by 40 feet, with 12 foot story, and J. Earnhart, J. R. Williams and Solomon Walls appointed building committee. The lot west of the court house, about the middle of the block, was chosen as the site. The first class in the vicinity of Sullivan was called Gilkerson's and met at his house about a mile west of the court-house square on the Merom road. It is first mentioned in the minutes April 17, 1830. The class moved to town when the church was built.

At the conference held at New Lebanon August 17, 1850, the Sullivan circuit was constituted, on the report of a committee consisting of J. Pinkston, J. Peters, Anthony Mason, J. Earnhart and E. W. Burgess. The New Lebanon circuit was to contain the charges of New Lebanon,



East Chapel, Providence, Merom and D. Pinkston's. Sullivan, Mt. Tabor, Pierce's, Weir's, Ebenezer, Bethel and Fairbanks constituted the Sullivan circuit.

*Sullivan Methodist Church.*

On the west side of the public square of Sullivan a frame church was constructed in the year 1846 for the religious home of the Methodists. A peculiar interest attaches to this building, not only because it was the first church edifice in Sullivan, but also because of the pious men whose zeal and efforts made the structure possible. It is said that some of the earliest Methodists who came to this part of the county contributed the timbers which went into the building and helped in the raising of the framework and the nailing on of the boards and finishing the interior and exterior, while the pastor of the flock at that time, Rev. James R. Williams, led on the workmen, himself handling a saw and hammer when occasion required. Some of these church builders were Jordan Peter, Solomon Walls, M. E. Chace, Reuben Crapo, and others, who hewed out the timbers, whipsawed the boards and worked with right good will for several months in constructing a place where worship might be conducted elsewhere than in the county seminary and private houses, where the good Methodist folks had congregated up to that time. The membership of the society in that year was only twenty-five, but with the building of the church an increasing number came into the habit of regarding with affection the church home on the square and assembling there on days of worship. During the eighties the membership rolls contained over three hundred, and the Sunday school, which had been started with six white and two colored scholars, being the first class for Bible instruction in the town, had likewise grown in numbers and influence.

The old frame church was occupied a little more than ten years. In 1858-59, under the labors of William H. Cornelius, a brick church was

built on the site of the present church. A parsonage was erected in 1880, while J. A. Ward was pastor. On May 19, 1889, the last service was held in the old church, plans having been made for the building of a new church to cost over \$12,000. In July the old building was wrecked, and the contract for the new was let to J. F. Hoke at \$12,073. September 2d, the corner-stone was laid, and in August, 1890, the present church edifice was dedicated by Dr. Earl Cranston. The Epworth League of this church was organized February 24, 1891.

*Carlisle Methodist Church.*

If we except the movements and labors of the early French Catholic missionaries within the territory now comprised in Sullivan county, the first preacher of the gospel whose record can be found affecting this region was a Methodist. It is said that Rev. Joel Collins came among the few settlers living about the blockhouses near Carlisle in 1806, and his voice was often lifted up in exhortation and in blessing the labors of this people dwelling on the edge of civilization. As a minister he was quite remarkable for his frontiersman hardiness and bravery. He was expert with the rifle, and a very practical Christian. It was his son, Madison Collins, who was severely wounded in the Indian massacre where Dudley Mack lost his life, and it would not have been strange if the old pioneer minister allowed himself a feeling of vengeance against the savages who had almost taken away one of his family.

For many years, until well within the memory of people now in middle age, there stood on one of the streets of Carlisle a building which in later years was much dilapidated and was used as a cooper's shop. When first built it had served a very different purpose, and the voices of the workmen and the sounds of the shop were like a material echo of the hymns of praise and thanksgiving and prayerful worship of the pioneers

who years before had assembled in this building. The old cooper shop was the first church building in Carlisle and the county, built in 1818 by the Methodists, but used at various times by many sects and for various purposes. It was a landmark in the town for two generations. Men and women were christened under its roof, were married there, and at death were taken there for the last rites. It was not till 1874 that the congregation left the old home for a new and larger church, but even after that for years the memories of many of the worshipers would often recall the scenes that were associated with the little old building that still stood near the new one. The new church was dedicated in October, 1874, the president of Asbury University (DePauw) being the principal speaker. M. S. Heavenridge was pastor in charge.

*New Lebanon Methodists.*

New Lebanon was one of the principal strongholds of Methodist doctrine and influence in western Indiana during the last century. It was the scene of camp meetings that attracted worshipers from far and near, and many of the older residents of the county remember how they traveled by wagon over the roads that centered at the New Lebanon camp ground, where the tents were spread and for a week or more the Methodists and their friends participated in the now old-fashioned custom of worship and social commingling amid the pleasant surroundings of outdoor existence, and usually following the harvests when people had their crops garnered and were in a particularly grateful mood.

The pioneer settlers on Gill prairie were only little behind the people about Carlisle in organizing for Methodist worship. The house of William Burnett was, so far as known, the first place of worship for the Methodists of Gill prairie. Rev. John Schrader had begun preaching here in 1813, and soon after a class was formed consisting of the following: William and Mary Burnett, William and Anna Gill, James Black and wife, Berry

and Elizabeth Taylor, Deborah Graham, Catherine Strain and Patsy Hollenbach. In 1814 James McCord succeeded Rev. Schrader and continued preaching at Burnett's, but after three years the class was broken up by the removal of its members. William Burnett removed to the vicinity of the present town of New Lebanon, and again his house became a place of worship. Here, about 1816, James McCord formed a class of four members—William and Mary Burnett and Berry and Elizabeth Taylor—but the following year ten new members were added—Henry South, Charlotte South, Christian Canary, Nancy Canary, John South, Jane South, William South, Margaret South, David Howard and Sarah Howard.

In 1818 occurred the first recorded camp meeting held on the Mt. Zion camp ground. This was called the "bark camp meeting," called so on account of the material used for tents. Many conversions resulted from this meeting, so that the Burnett home was too small, and the congregation then built, on the camp ground, a hewed log church, the logs being covered with oak boards, and named it the Mt. Zion church. This was the scene of many revivals and was the center of worship for this community until 1830, when a frame church was built at New Lebanon at a cost of about one thousand dollars. This church continued in use until 1871, when the floor gave way. The brick church was then built, at a cost of about \$6,000, being at the time the finest church building in the county. It is said the bishops presided at the dedication of both the old frame and the new brick church.

East Chapel, a part of the New Lebanon circuit, was one of the early churches of Gill township. The first church was built there in 1861, at a cost of three hundred dollars, and on December 18, 1892, this congregation dedicated a new church.

Merom was a station in the Honey Creek circuit in 1821, but no data have been found relating to the church during its early years. In 1837



the congregation built a house of worship at a cost of six hundred dollars. During the present century the Methodists at Merom have attained considerable strength as an organization, and in 1908 the society erected a new brick church at a cost of \$4,500. The church was dedicated on Sunday, July 5th.

The Providence church in Turman township, about six miles west of Sullivan, originated about the middle of the last century and was formerly a part of the New Lebanon circuit. The church building, which was erected at a cost of \$1,200 in 1872, was destroyed by fire in January, 1886, during the progress of revival meetings.

Rose Chapel, supplied from the Merom church, was dedicated in June, 1892.

In May, 1893, the Methodists at Fairbanks dedicated a frame church building.

#### *Presbyterian Churches.*

Besides the Methodists, another little congregation worshiped in the Methodist church building at Carlisle. William and Mary McCrary, James, Mary and Martha Watson, Rachel Porter, Mary Gould, Lydia Silliman, and Ann Broady were a little band of the Presbyterian faith who were organized into a society on January 31, 1819, by a missionary named Fowler. For the first few years, only at intervals, a Presbyterian preacher came to Carlisle, an occasion that was marked by a full assemblage not only of members of this faith but of other denominations. On the first Sunday in June, 1841, a church building was dedicated to the home of the Presbyterians, and in 1877 a much larger and handsomer church was erected, being dedicated in October of that year.

#### *Sullivan Presbyterian Church.*

The old Methodist church on the public square in Sullivan was a center of early religious activities, apart from those of the particular

denomination to which it belonged. Baptists and Presbyterians worshiped within these hospitable walls. This church, the court house and private homes were for some years the abiding place of the early Presbyterians of Sullivan. Sixteen members of that faith were organized in the Methodist building on August 31, 1857, into a society. Just before the war they subscribed \$1,700 for the building of a church. The contract was made by the committee with the builders, when the outbreak of the war caused the committee to endeavor to annul the contract, but without success and the building proceeded, and by unusual self-denial on the part of the members the obligations were faithfully met right in the midst of the crucial events of the war.

An issue of the *Democrat* in March, 1864, states that some members of the church favored the sale of the building for schoolhouse purposes in order to discharge the obligations which still rested on the congregation. There was at that time little prospect of securing a minister acceptable to all, and the life of the organization seemed about to expire. A few weeks later, however, it was reported that the Presbyterians had secured the services of Rev. P. B. Cook as pastor, and services were to be held every Sunday. An interesting feature of the service, given prominence in the newspaper, was that the services would be accompanied by melodeon and choir, the melodeon being understood to be the gift of James Kelley.

The dedication of the church occurred in August, 1866, the principal sermon being delivered by Rev. Mr. Smith of Vincennes. A small subscription was taken, sufficient to pay off the indebtedness. For several years previously the building, though occupied, was unfinished.

In August, 1907, just fifty years after the organization of the church, the last service was held in the old building, and preparations made to erect a modern religious edifice. The last meeting in the old church was made notable by an address from Rev. Montgomery, one of the early

ministers of the congregation, who gave a historical account of the church, and paid a tribute to the personnel of officials and influential members, and recalled with special affection and praise the leadership of such men as Murray Briggs, Dr. Thompson, Harvey Wilson, Mr. Hutchinson, Lafayette Stewart, all of whom were identified with the early growth of the church. Mention was also made of George Goodwin, who had been a member of the church forty years and who at this time was elder. The church membership in the preceding fifty years had fluctuated between seven and two hundred.

The actual work of construction on the new church was not begun until the summer of 1908. The new church is built of brick and Bedford stone, on a modern plan of church architecture, and with seating capacity in the auditorium for five hundred. On August 20, 1908, the corner-stone was laid with ceremonies, among which the principal address was by Judge G. W. Buff.

#### *Sullivan Christian Church.*

Only the oldest men and women recall the little frame building that half a century ago stood on Section street, with its cupola and small bell whose ringing at intervals called together the Disciples of Christ or Christians, as they are best known. As it originally stood, the church was built about 1849, and about five years later an addition of fifteen feet gave a more commodious interior, and at this time also the cupola and bell were added to give distinction to the house of worship.\* The society that found its first home in this building had its inception sometime in the thirties,

\*The first Christian church building, after being abandoned as a church, was used as a carpenter shop, and until finally it was cut up into several sections, becoming wood-house, stable, etc., and thus passed into oblivion. It originally stood two squares north of Washington street, on Section.

when Joseph W. Wolfe and A. P. Law were both ordained ministers of this denomination in Sullivan county. The organization was a growing one, so that in 1866 what was then deemed a large brick church, 50 by 75 feet, and with considerable pretensions to architectural dignity, was constructed at a cost of \$8,000, being dedicated in May, 1866, by Elder Black of Putnam county. A larger bell from its cupola summoned the people to worship, and the prosperity of the church went on without serious interruption. This was the parent church of several smaller Christian churches in the county.

A parsonage was built at a cost of about \$1,200 in 1889, being formally opened July 25th, while Rev. Ireland was pastor.

#### *Other Christian Churches.*

At his death on May 7, 1890, James J. Snider, a resident of the county, left his estate to be divided, on the death of his wife, among three churches of the Christian denomination. The will was finally pronounced valid, and in 1902 steps were taken to carry out its provisions. The property consisted of 320 acres of land and about \$5,000 of personal property, one-half of which was to go to Providence church at Paxton, and the other half to be divided equally between the churches at Carlisle and Sullivan. The real estate was not to be divided or sold, but to be managed entirely by trustees, and the income used for the support of pastors, repair of buildings, etc. The personal property was to be converted into government or real estate securities, the income only to be available for current use. In 1903 the first distribution was made, and a total of nearly five thousand dollars was divided among the three churches.

One of the former local preachers of the Christian church in this county was Rev. A. Ward, who died September 22, 1884, in his 67th year. He had been a minister in the church for thirty-five years, twenty years in this county, and had received four thousand into the church.



The labors of Joseph W. Wolfe were identified in several ways with pioneer history of Sullivan county. Before he was public official he was a minister and elder of the Christian church, and in this way was connected with several of the early societies of that denomination. At Carlisle he was one of the two elders who organized the church on October 5, 1866, and was the first pastor of the charter membership of forty-four. The frame church built in 1868 cost five thousand dollars, and the organization was one of the flourishing religious societies of the southern part of Sullivan county.

#### *Baptists.*

Many will recall the kindly and venerable Rev. William Stansil, the octogenarian Baptist minister, who, having founded the Baptist church on a permanent basis in Sullivan and led it for many years, later spent his old age in retirement in this county. He was one of the pioneer ministers of his denomination in the Wabash valley, and in this shared some honors with the veteran missionary Isaac McCoy, whose name is so closely identified with the early history of the Baptist church in Indiana. During the early fifties he lived in Knox county, and passed up and down the valley to perform his labors. A periodical journey took him through Sullivan, and he used to stop there and preach in the Methodist church to the small group of Baptists who lived in the town and neighborhood. Finally on April 23, 1853 (see below), the Baptist church of Sullivan was constituted with a membership of sixteen, and Rev. Stansil then took up his residence at Sullivan and continued to serve the church as pastor for ten consecutive years, and after a brief interval for four more years. The house of worship on Jackson street, used for many years by this church, was begun about 1854.

Sunday, May 15, 1904, the Sullivan Baptist church celebrated its

fiftieth anniversary. The records previous to 1885 having been destroyed, the members of the church were not agreed as to the exact date of the organization, the majority asserting 1854 to be the proper date, while others fixed the time in 1853. At this celebration some of the original members were recalled, among them being Rev. Stansil, Robert L. Griffith, Mildred J. Griffith, Thomas Black, Stephen Ballard, Willoughby Nichols, Surrell Nichols, J. H. Reed, Zerelda Reed. Mrs. Griffith was the only surviving member at the time of the anniversary.

The church enjoyed quiet prosperity until the pastorate of Rev. Robert Taylor, about 1877, when dissensions arose which threatened the existence of the church for many years. The troubles culminated during the pastorate of D. B. Miller, who was an energetic pastor, secured many accessions to the membership, repaired the old building (in 1885), but at the close of his term the church was barely kept together. In the early nineties it was determined to reorganize. The old church building was sold, the membership roll revised, and services were begun in the court house. Rev. Henry Bailey was called to the pastorate, and from that time the church progressed with new life and harmony. On June 5, 1895, the corner-stone of a new church was laid, and the building completed the same year. After two years Mr. Bailey resigned, but under the successive pastorates of J. B. Thomas and U. M. McGuire (who came in 1899) the church continued to grow and prosper.

The Fairbanks Baptist church was organized in 1828 at the home of James Drake. In January, 1906, the church dedicated a new frame building, costing \$2,200. William Stansil and Abram Starks were the ministers who took charge of the organization of this church, and the first church was erected the same year. The old building was replaced with a new in 1871, and when this was decided to be inadequate and in need of repairs a few years ago, the congregation undertook the remodeling, but

the building collapsed during the work, and plans were at once made to erect an entirely new house of worship. The money was all raised before the day of dedication.

*Catholics.*

The five or six Catholic families who resided in Sullivan during the sixties were organized into a church by Father McCarty, a missionary, and through donations that came mostly from sources outside of this church, a frame structure was built near the railroad depot in 1867-68. The furnishings were very meager, and it was not until several years later that seats were placed in the church. This was a mission church and was attended by a priest from Terre Haute. In the issue of the *Democrat* for April 26, 1866, it is stated that Mrs. Dufficy had given two lots as a site for the proposed church, and the progress of this denomination is further indicated in the issue of August, 1867, which reported that the necessary money had been secured and that the contract had been awarded to William Greenlee for the construction of the building west of the depot in Gray, Watson and Bloom's addition. In June, 1906, was reported the sale of this old building, the original Catholic church, to the denomination of Holiness Christian for the sum of \$800. The old building, after the Catholics erected their new church, was used for a schoolhouse for a time.

*U. B. Church.*

In February, 1894, the United Brethren organized a church at Sullivan with nineteen members. A few weeks later they purchased the old Baptist church building on East Jackson street, and installed Sarah B. Whistler as first regular pastor. The church was repaired and formally dedicated in August, 1894.

The United Brethren church east of Sullivan was dedicated by Bishop Castle, May 31, 1896.

One of the diligent and gifted ministers who performed the arduous work of the profession during the early half of the century was Elder John S. Howard, who died at Thurston, Ohio, December 6, 1890. Born in Wilson county, Tennessee, August 20, 1807, he first came to Sullivan to live in 1854 and was here continuously until about seven years before his death. He had been ordained at Russelville, Illinois, in 1846 by Elders Joseph W. Wolfe and B. W. Fields, and was thus introduced to the services of a long and active ministry. He preached over large territories in eastern and southeastern Illinois and southwestern Indiana, and was welcomed along the Wabash valley in many communities. He had a delightful voice and a genius for singing added to his power as a preacher. His daughter, Mrs. Mose Wilkey, lived in Sullivan, and he was buried from the Christian church here.

The following church statistics is from the statistician's report for 1883 (the latest at hand). There have been many additions to all of the items, no doubt, but the relative strength would probably be near the same:

DENOMINATIONS.	No. of Church Organizations.	No. of Church Edifices.	MEMBERSHIP.				Value of Building, Lot and Other Church Property.
			Male.	Female.	Total.	No. Admitted to Full Membership During Year.	
Methodist Episcopal...	18	18	920	968	1,888	160	\$28,350
Christian .....	14	13	903	1,100	2,000	150	25,000
Presbyterian .....	5	5	202	204	406	36	12,000
Baptist Missionary....	9	8	400	489	889	102	12,000
Christian New Light...	2	1	140	160	300	30	1,000
Catholic .....	1	1	20	23	43	6	500
Baptist (Hardshell)...	1	1	25	28	53	5	500
Second Adventist.....	1	.....	10	12	22	20	.....
Total .....	51	47	2,617	3,084	5,701	509	\$79,350



## CHAPTER XX.

### TEMPERANCE.

In one form or another there has been in Sullivan county a persistent movement against the liquor traffic for more than sixty years. This movement may be said to have culminated on March 3, 1909, when at the county option election, held under the law passed by the last session of the legislature, the "drys" carried the county by 1,821 majority. The six precincts which "went wet" gave only small majorities. Hamilton township voted dry by 213 majority, and Curry, where the real fight had been made between the opposing forces of saloon and anti-saloon, gave a dry majority of 146.

With the exception of the lodge of Masons at Carlisle, which maintained its organization only a few years during the twenties, it appears that the first important social organization in the county was the Sons of Temperance at Sullivan, organized about 1848. The object of the order was to promote temperance, but, being a secret order, it became more of a social organization or club than otherwise. Most of the charter members were temperate men who were not in the habit of using spirituous liquors as a beverage, but the membership contained some who would be termed at that time "moderate drinkers," and these are said to have continued their convivial custom even after initiation. However, the lodge at Sullivan had a great influence for the promotion of sobriety in the town and

adjacent country and a large proportion of the citizens became members. A two-story frame hall near the southwest corner of the square was built by this order. Many of the social occasions of the time were undertaken under the auspices and leadership of this organization. The Good Templars and the Royal Templars were similar organizations that followed the Sons of Temperance, and at different localities had their following and influence.

In 1853 the legislature passed a law for the limitation and control of the liquor traffic, providing that the sale of intoxicating liquors should be under the control of a county agent, thus creating a new office in each county, and also providing that liquors should only be sold for medicinal purposes and on the prescription of a physician. But the representatives of the state in controlling the liquor business lacked, in the majority of cases, the strength and judgment of character equal to the responsibilities put upon them by the insistent drinkers, and the system was a failure.

In 1855 the legislature passed an act which was prohibitory in its nature. The manufacture, sale or drinking of spirituous and malt liquors were forbidden in the state except for medicinal uses. Sullivan county had prohibition under this act about six months, when the law was declared unconstitutional.

It was about 1872 that the Crusade Movement first set in, and in time spread like wildfire over the whole country. The women were in many localities the principal actors in this movement, and in some towns collected in parties and by intimidation and feminine suasion in many instances routed the saloon forces, caused the liquors to be poured into the gutters, and produced at least a temporary cessation of the traffic. The newspapers do not record during this time any forceful measures to stop the traffic in this county, but meetings were frequently held and the legal machinery then provided was constantly invoked to keep out saloons.

The agitation begun with the Crusade resulted in what was known as the "Baxter Bill," which produced much excitement when it was passed in 1873. At the next session it was modified and finally repealed. It provided among other things that the saloon-keeper should file with his application for license the petition of a majority of the voters at the last election in the township or ward where he desired to sell, asking that he be granted license. During the continuance of this law various ways were devised by which the law could be evaded.

The organization of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union followed as a result of the Crusade Movement of 1873, and in this, too, Sullivan county has co-operated through its local organizations. The Prohibition party, which first placed national candidates in the field during the eighties, has had adherents in this county since that time. But perhaps the most effective organization for combating the liquor traffic has been the Anti-Saloon League, which was organized about the beginning of this century, and is both a national and state organization. Though it originated as a church movement, it is in fact a general movement on the part of the people at large, under the leadership of national, state and local executive committees.

Those who desire to follow the history of the anti-saloon movement in its details in Sullivan county will find much information in the following chronological items, culled from the issues of the *Democrat* during the past forty years. Murray Briggs, the editor for most of this time, was in active sympathy with the movement. The dates given are the dates of issue of the *Democrat*.

Jan. 7, 1867—In compliance with a numerously signed petition the board of trustees of Sullivan passed an ordinance requiring \$500 license of all liquor sellers.

Feb. 7, 1867—Citizens of Carlisle generally exulted over the

"drying up of the last grocery" in their town. The proprietors left town, whether from public sentiment or from fear of grand jury, is somewhat uncertain.

Aug. 1, 1867—Board of trustees of Merom, Thomas Kearns president and H. H. Shideler clerk, adopted resolutions requiring saloon-keepers to pay a tax of five dollars per day for every billiard table, 10-pin or 9-pin alley, license of \$100 per year for privilege of selling liquor and requiring certificate of good moral character of applicant signed by two-thirds of the legal voters of the town, and providing penalties for illegal selling and disorderly conduct.

Jan. 13, 1870—The correspondent of the *New Albany Ledger*, writing from Farmersburg, says: "The moral sentiment of the people is of such a character that we are without the usual appendage of a western town, a grog shop."

Aug. 12, 1870—Good Templars have organized at Carlisle.

March 13, 1872—A large number of indictments against liquor dealers are on docket, and numerous convictions. Judge Patterson takes a new departure, now adding five days in the county jail to the usual fine of \$5 and costs. Prosecuting attorney also announces his intention to pursue absent witnesses with attachment and make it rather expensive to hire witnesses to stay away.

July 31, 1872—More licensed saloons in this place (Sullivan) than ever before.

Feb. 24, 1873—Meeting held in Literary hall (schoolhouse) to discuss bill providing that liquor dealers must get signatures of majority of voters in order to get license. T. J. Wolfe presided. Speeches in favor of the bill made by James L. Griffin, W. T. Crawford, J. T. Hays, Rev. W. P. Armstrong, Rev. Mr. Robertson and others. Governor Hendricks was telegraphed that Sullivan county approved the law.

June, 1873—Two licenses granted in Sullivan under the new law.

June 14, 1873—Last day for the saloon in Carlisle.

April 6, 1874—Temperance meeting at the Presbyterian church was rather more spirited than usual. Speeches made by Hays, Crawford and Kildow. Effort had been made in March by the women to secure an effective remonstrance.

Aug. 12, 1874—"To the county commissioners of Sullivan



county: I hereby notify you that I am opposed to granting any more permits to any person to sell liquor in this the — ward of Sullivan for the space of one year, and any petition bearing my name will be without my knowledge or consent." This was signed by about two-thirds of the voters, including nearly all the men of prominence in the town about that time.

Sept. 9, 1874—Intense interest centered in the applications for liquor license under the Baxter law. At the last municipal election in this place, under the ruling of the attorney general, but one polling place was opened and all the votes taken there instead of by wards as formerly. The applicants claim this was unconstitutional, and the petitions were made up on the basis of the election of 1873 and the applications are claimed to be signed by a majority of the voters in the wards as shown by the poll books of that election. Senator Voorhees appeared as legal counsel for the applicants, and N. G. Buff for the temperance men. The permits were granted.

Sept. 23, 1874—Licenses granted in Sullivan and Shelburn.

Dec. 30, 1874—The Sullivan Amateurs have made arrangements to bring out the popular play of "Ten Nights in the Bar Room" in fine style at Literary Hall. They purpose to give two entertainments, presenting this play and a new moral drama entitled "The Fruits of the Wine Cup."

May 5, 1875—Temperance ticket nominated, and the following officers elected on that ticket: Trustees, James A. Catlin, A. B. Stansil, Uriah Coulson, Thos. Robbins, J. R. McKinley. Only one office won by the opposing ticket.

June 9, 1875—Town board passed ordinance making license fee \$100, the highest allowed by the state law.

June 16, 1875—About \$1,000 from liquor licenses added to the tuition fund of this county.

Aug. 29, 1877—Murphy or blue ribbon temperance movement has been inaugurated here and meetings held for the past week. Four hundred have signed pledge.

Oct. 24, 1877—Luther Benson lectured at court house last week. Audience spellbound for an hour and a half. Mr. John Lee for a week has been conducting successful meetings on the Murphy plan at Carlisle. About 160 signers of the pledge, probably fifty of whom were regular drinkers. The damage to the saloon business

has aroused keepers to point of retaliation, though the speaker was most gentle in manner and, moreover, frail in health. As he was leaving town several men followed him to the train and assaulted him.

Nov. 14, 1877—Audience room at M. E. church nightly crowded, and people who never before went to temperance meetings attend regularly and hundreds have pinned on the blue ribbon. Messrs. Shelby and Black are conducting the meetings with wonderful success.

Nov. 28, 1877—Shelby-Black meetings followed by weekly meetings at different churches. Executive committee have arranged series of meetings in surrounding towns and all the school districts.

Dec. 15, 1877—Meetings still well attended. Middletown and Fairbanks movement highly popular; at New Lebanon, 78 signers on Sunday night, and Monday 37 more.

Dec. 26, 1877—Various societies of the county report 2,881 signers.

Feb. 13, 1878—Front doors of saloons freely used on Sunday.

March 30, 1878—County convention held at the court house. Lafayette Stewart chosen president, Rev. Taylor, A. D. Murphy and Prof. George W. Register, secretaries, N. Conkle of Farmersburg and Smith Greenfield of Carlisle vice presidents. A permanent organization was effected. A resolution passed promising continued diligence and disclaiming all intention to permit the organization to enter politics. Thirty clubs reported 5,000 signers of the pledge. The number of signers in Sullivan brought up to 994.

April 10, 1878—No saloons in Turman township.

July 10, 1878—On the 4th a temperance rally held at Sullivan, at which speeches patriotic and in the interests of temperance were made by the president of the county association, by John Springer of Jacksonville, Ill.; by Mrs. William Denny of Vincennes, by Luther Benson, and by John Billman and Captain Crawford. Great satisfaction was expressed that in a crowd of eight or ten thousand not a single drunken man was seen, and no disturbance of any kind.

Sept. 25, 1878—Association at Sullivan resumed meetings. Messrs. Hoke and Sherman tendered the use of the opera house for the meetings.

Oct. 9, 1878—Executive committee for the ensuing year appointed—J. R. McKinley chairman, A. D. Murphy secretary and John Thompson treasurer.

1878-79—Interest in meetings declined during this winter, and the organization became inactive for a time. In February, 1879, it was reported that Sullivan was making no attempt to enforce closing ordinances.

May 10, 1879—County convention re-elects Lafayette Stewart and A. D. Stewart president and secretary of the county association.

Dec. 10, 1879—Last week we published an application for a liquor license in Farmersburg. Within 24 hours after the reception of the paper containing the advertisement every citizen in town had signed a remonstrance.

Feb. 22, 1882—Good Templars met in convention at New Lebanon, 26 delegates, three-fourths of whom were voters. Resolved to support no candidates who would not pledge themselves to vote for an amendment providing state prohibition.

March 4, 1884—W. C. T. U. is trying to prevent the two saloon-keepers in Carlisle from obtaining licenses.

March 7, 1884—Fight against saloon-keepers in Carlisle successful.

May 30, 1884—W. C. T. U. circulating petition in Sullivan among the women asking commissioners to refuse all applications for license.

June 6, 1884—About 50 ladies of the W. C. T. U. attended commissioners' court and succeeded in preventing issuance of licenses to all applicants but two.

June 27, 1884—Ladies went to Merom to organize W. C. T. U.

Aug. 26, 1884—W. C. T. U. brought Mrs. Josephine R. Nichols to address the teachers' institute and secured resolution recommending the passage of a law requiring instruction on the effects of alcohol to be given in the public schools.

July 29, 1884—Branch of the W. C. T. U. organized among the young ladies of Sullivan.

Nov. 9, 1891—The first Demorest medal contest won by Ethel Ireland. Meeting held to consider the organization of a W. C. T. U. (The old association had apparently ceased.)

March 3, 1896—Commissioners hold that remonstrance should

be directed against individual applicants; the judge of the circuit court that it should be against any and all persons desiring to sell liquor.

June 5, 1896—License refused in Jackson township because of remonstrance signed by over 400 voters.

June 27, 1901—Compromise effected between the Anti-Saloon League and the saloon-keepers in the form of an agreement that the saloon-keepers will respect the Nicholson law in regard to closing from 11 p. m. to 5 a. m. and on Sundays, during which time no liquor will be sold or given away. Also will permit no gambling or unlawful games of any sort, and allow saloons to be inspected at any time by members of the league. The league agreed to suspend all remonstrances so long as the saloon-keepers kept faith. The agreement was signed by five leading saloon men, and remonstrances may be filed against those who do not sign.

Dec. 12, 1901—The Cass township remonstrance, signed by 350 voters, has been held valid. This leaves Cass township without a saloon.

Feb. 6, 1902—The people of Cass township have filed 12 remonstrances in 13 months.

June 19, 1902—Remonstrance being circulated in Hamilton township. Effort being made to induce majority of voters to give power of attorney to Joshua Beasley and William H. Crowder, Sr., to sign names on remonstrances against any and all applicants for saloons.

Sept. 11, 1902—Remonstrance held good in Hamilton township. The saloon men having caused almost every man who signed remonstrance to be summoned as witness, the temperance people made it the occasion for a rally in the court house yard. Free lunch was served to all, and speeches made by ministers and citizens. The decision has closed all but four saloons in Sullivan.

Dec. 25, 1902—The supreme court sustains the power of attorney in the remonstrance against the liquor traffic. A remonstrance had been signed by John Ragle et al. against John Mattix in Jackson township in the spring of 1900, and the commissioners refused the license. This action was reversed by the Sullivan circuit court on the ground that the remonstrance did not mention Mattix, but



was directed against all applicants. The supreme court upheld the validity of this form of remonstrance.

Jan. 8, 1903—Haddon township successfully remonstrates against two saloons.

July 9, 1903—Remonstrance sustained in Hamilton township; leaves but two licenses in Sullivan.

Sept. 17, 1903—Temperance forces defeated in Hamilton township, leaving eight saloons in Sullivan.

Sept. 15, 1904—Commissioners grant 15 licenses. Remonstrance in Jefferson township again successful; no saloons there in many years.

March 16, 1905—Paper being circulated to give A. E. Hazelrigg and W. H. Crowder power of attorney to sign names of petitioners to all remonstrances against those who apply for license to sell liquor outside of business district in Sullivan.

May 4, 1905—Several applicants for license in Cass township refused because of remonstrance.

Aug. 10, 1905—Licenses granted to sell liquor in Sullivan, Shelburn and other places. Gill township was the first in the county to file remonstrance under the Moore law, and it proved effective.

July 20, 1905—Meeting of representatives from Curry, Hamilton, Jackson, Haddon and Gill townships organize a Sullivan County Law and Order League, W. D. Scott chosen president of the Hamilton township branch.

Feb. 15, 1906—Sullivan one of the few counties in the state in which saloons have increased in the past year, the number having increased from 55 to 64. This is due no doubt to the growth of mining camps. Dugger, a mining town, has no saloons, and all Cass township is dry under the Moore law.

Sept. 6, 1906—Remonstrance signed by 578 persons filed by Curry township, a majority of 67. At present there are 64 saloons in the county, 22 being in Curry township.

April 4, 1907—Fairbanks township now dry.

## CHAPTER XXI.

### FRATERNAL.

A remarkable proof of the widespread activities and influence of Masonry is found in the establishment of a lodge in Sullivan county only a few years after the organization of the county, while the churches and schools and other essential institutions of society were still in primitive condition. Hiram Lodge No. 18, F. & A. M., was chartered at Carlisle in 1821. This charter with its number was given to Attica Lodge in 1835, but in 1850 a reorganization was effected, and this time the lodge got the third number in Indiana Masonry, the lodge being henceforth known as Carlisle Lodge No. 3, the number being taken from an arrested lodge. Among the early Masons at Carlisle was John W. Davis, who is reported to have paid his dues with "one quart of cherry bounce."

A lodge of Masons, Shelburn Lodge, No. 369, was organized at the village of Shelburn in 1867. At Merom the Masons were earlier in activity. After conducting Masonic work for a while under dispensation, they were granted a charter in 1863.

W. H. Cornelius, Alex Knoy, Willis G. Neff, and Joseph W. Briggs were the principal movers in the organization of Masonry in the town of Sullivan. They worked under a dispensation from June, 1859, until Sullivan Lodge No. 263 was chartered on May 30, 1860. Twenty years later this was the strongest and richest fraternal organization in the county.

One of the noteworthy occasions in the history of Masonry in this county was the assembling, on June 24, 1868, of several hundred Masons of the county and state at the Sullivan fair grounds. The Merom band was present, and a general celebration indulged in, the chief feature of which was the institution of the newly organized Shelburn lodge. The Masonic hall at Sullivan was dedicated in January, 1886.

Six residents of Carlisle were granted a charter to form a lodge of Odd Fellowship on January 30, 1850, and with that event begins the career of Carlisle Lodge No. 50, I. O. O. F. The six charter members were: J. H. Massey, T. Leuep, John Caldwell, Edward S. Hussey, James A. Curtner, A. M. Murphy.

The progress of Odd Fellowship in the southern part of the county was denoted in the organization of Morse Encampment No. 139, for which a charter was granted May 16, 1876.

Some of the prominent Odd Fellows in the southern part of the county are noted in the list of officers for the Carlisle lodge for 1856—John F. Curry, Hamet N. Helms, William M. Skinner, Thomas E. Ashley, A. A. Curry, W. D. Blackburn, J. V. Caddington, William F. Dodds.

At the same date the officers elected for Sullivan Lodge No. 147 were John J. Thompson, John P. Dufficy, James W. Hinkle, William Wilson. This lodge was organized July 18, 1854. Its lodge hall was destroyed by fire in November, 1858, and a few faithful members upheld its existence until the end of the war and the return of men's interests to the regular pursuits of life. In 1869 a new charter was received, and in July, 1878, a new hall was dedicated, the lodge having built, in connection with a business firm, a two-story brick building on Jackson street near the southwest corner of the square.

In 1873 Prairie Lodge, I. O. O. F., was organized at Shelburn. This lodge dedicated its new hall in August, 1884.

In the same year Pleasantville Lodge No. 408 was instituted, and the order became so active in this part of the county that in 1879 Pleasantville Encampment No. 148 was chartered.

Hymera Lodge No. 603 was instituted at Pittsburg (Hymera) in October, 1883, the special deputy in charge of the organization being Murray Briggs. Dr. L. K. Stock, Frank Need, James Manwaring and S. O. Self were the first officers.

Oriole Lodge No. 616 was instituted at Dugger in September, 1885, the first officers being W. H. Slocum, Alexander Pope, George E. Scofield, T. S. Bedwell and Ed Cochran.

During the last twenty years Odd Fellowship has become a strong fraternal order at Farmersburg. Lodge No. 622 was organized there in June, 1886, with 19 members, the first officers being Dr. R. W. Van Cleave, Dr. Thomas Kennedy, Daniel Moore, F. Kirkham. In 1894 this lodge built a new hall, which was dedicated December 5th. In the meantime its membership had increased to fifty, and in October, 1893, an encampment of thirty members was organized, and on December 29th the Farmersburg Hannah Ruth Lodge No. 432 was organized with 22 members.

An Odd Fellows lodge was organized at Buell City in February, 1887.

The Knights of Pythias reorganized their Sullivan lodge September 16, 1891, after a period of inactivity by the old lodge. P. H. Blue, F. E. Basler, C. J. Sherman, W. H. Burks, William McCammon were among the officers chosen at the reorganization.

Camp No. 3567 of the Modern Woodmen was established at Sullivan in February, 1896, with 18 beneficiary members, J. T. Whitman, Joseph Freeman, Jesse Creager and L. E. Townsley being among the first officers.



A lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks was organized at Sullivan May 2, 1904, their first set of officers being James R. Riggs, Milton A. Haddon, Ed J. Hoke, William H. Bridwell, P. A. Barco, B. C. Crowder, C. H. Stratton, P. L. Reid, Arthur R. Martin.

## CHAPTER XXII.

### LIBRARIES.

The value of libraries was recognized by the convention that framed the first state constitution in 1816. A clause was inserted in the constitution making it the duty of the general assembly, whenever a new county was laid off, to reserve ten per cent of the money received from the sale of lots in the county seat for the use of a public library. In 1818 a law for the incorporation of public libraries was enacted: Several county libraries were established under this law. In 1852 a law was passed providing for a tax of one-quarter of a mill on the dollar, and twenty-five cents on each poll, to be used in the purchase of township libraries.

Little is known about the Sullivan county library as first established. A president (Samuel Judah) and seven trustees were elected in 1821. Part of the money derived from the sale of lots at Merom was probably applied in the purchase of books, though the residue of the library fund was lost by the treasurer. Whether the sum was recovered from the bondsmen is not known. An act of the county board in June, 1853, ordered "that there be appropriated from the county treasury the sum of \$500 for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a public library in the county of Sullivan, out of the ten per cent reserved of the net proceeds of all lots within the town where the county seat is situated, and ten per

cent on the donations made to procure the location of the county seat of said county." A library room was established in the court house, the county clerk being librarian. By December, 1854, six hundred dollars' worth of books had been bought.

Under the law of 1852, by which the people were taxed for the support of township libraries, the state began the distribution of such libraries. Sullivan county, having a population less than fifteen thousand and more than ten thousand, was entitled to eight libraries. The first distribution, in December, 1854, was as follows: Haddon township, 108 books; Hamilton, 108 books; Gill, 103 books; Turman, 100 books; Fairbanks, 98 books; Jackson, 93 books; Curry, 87 books; Jefferson, 85 books; Cass, 82 books. The full library was 325 volumes, and in 1855 six of the townships received full libraries, and the other three were apportioned two-thirds libraries. In 1855 the Gill township library was kept in a saddler's shop at New Lebanon, Massom Ridgeway being librarian.

The notable benefaction of the wealthy citizen of New Harmony which resulted in the establishment in many places of the McClure mechanics' institutes and libraries was also represented in Sullivan county. By the provisions of the donation, three hundred dollars was given to an association of mechanics who would raise one hundred dollars to buy books. Such a library and institute was organized in Sullivan about 1856, and exerted considerable influence on the thought and reading of the time, a course of lectures being maintained here one year under its auspices. New Lebanon also had a similar organization.

As to what became of the old county library, the following explanation appeared in the *Democrat* (December 30, 1884): The books were left in boxes for a long time in the clerk's office, and when shelves were at last put up no care was taken of the books. The room assigned for these books was afterwards given to the clerk, and the books taken up stairs

and put in a room then occupied by Calvin Taylor as a law office. During the remodeling of the court house, the library was dissipated, and only a stray volume here and there is left as a reminder of the old collection.

At one time there existed what was known as the People's Library, a collection of about two hundred volumes. Fifty persons had each subscribed two dollars to form this collection, which was kept for a while in the W. C. T. U. rooms on the south side of the square, but finally went into the American Bible Society's depository. During the eighties a reading room was maintained by some of the women of Sullivan, who occasionally gave lunches and served ice cream and cake to raise money for the enterprise.

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*Carnegie Library.*

The establishment of the Carnegie Library at Sullivan was mainly due to the Woman's Club of that town. The history of perhaps the majority of the libraries in the middle west present a similar record of the enterprise and labors of women in behalf of the intellectual advantages and welfare of their respective towns.

In 1899 the Woman's Club appointed a committee to work for this object, the members of the committee being, Mrs. Anna Sheridan, chairman; Mrs. Mary Davis, Mrs. Amelia Crowder, Mrs. Helen Mahley, Mrs. Ida Thompson, Mrs. Mary Hays, Mrs. Rachel Harris. By entertainments and lectures a library fund of one hundred was accumulated, but the movement progressed slowly, and letters to Mr. Carnegie met with no response. In 1901 the legislature passed the new library law, requiring a town board to lay a library tax provided a fund equal to a tax of two-tenths of a mill had been raised by popular subscription. The conditions were met in Sullivan, the fund raised and a site offered for the library, and the facts were stated in a letter to Mr. Carnegie. In answer came a promise of \$10,000 for the library building.



In March, 1904, the contract for the library building was let to J. F. Nicholas for \$8,276, and on June 11th following the cornerstone was laid, with Masonic ceremonies. The building was dedicated January 19, 1906. The pupils of the schools visited the building by grades in the afternoon, and many of the school children and other visitors brought books to contribute to the library collection. In the evening the presentation address was made by John T. Hays, and the building was accepted on behalf of the town by William T. Douthitt. Other speakers were Prof. Robert J. Aley of the Indiana University, Miss Merica Hoagland of the Indiana Library Commission, and Mrs. W. R. Nesbit and Mrs. John Chaney.

Some interesting details concerning the establishment of the library are contained in the following chronological notes, taken from the newspapers:

April 10, 1902—The clubs of town begin to try to raise money for a public library. The women are trying to raise \$760 to fill the requirements of law—that being equal to a tax of two-tenths mill on each dollar of taxable property. Fifteen dollars is the highest sum to be asked from any one person.

April 17, 1902—In response to a committee from the various clubs of the town, headed by Mrs. O. B. Harris, the town board has levied a tax of six-tenths mill for library purposes, which gives an income of \$1,100 a year. The amount sought by popular subscription had been obtained.

July 17, 1902—The library board is made up of the following persons: Mrs. P. H. Blue, John T. Hays and Mrs. Florence Higbee, appointed by Judge O. B. Harris; George R. Dutton and Dr. Anna E. Sheridan, appointed by the town board; and Mrs. O. B. Harris and John S. Bays, appointed by the school board. July 24—Mrs. Harris was elected president, Mrs. Higbee secretary, and Mr. Dutton treasurer.

Nov. 13, 1902—A reading room over McClanahan's store has been opened to the public. All the late magazines are supplied, and in a back room is a table with games.

January, 1903—Letter dated Jan. 13 from Mr. Carnegie promis-

ing \$10,000, the town board having promised not less than one thousand dollars a year.

March 28, 1903—Library board accepts offer made by Dr. L. A. Stewart and others of a lot for the library at the corner of Thompson and Eaton streets, west end of Jackson.

Aug. 27, 1903—Strikes at stone quarries and the prospect of a direct line to the quarries when the Southern Indiana Railroad reaches Sullivan make it advisable to wait until 1904 to build.

Nov. 12, 1903—Library board accepts plans of P. O. Moratz, an architect of Bloomington, Illinois.

June 11, 1904—Laying of cornerstone. Procession headed by library board and Woman's Club, to which bodies is due a large share of the credit for the establishment of the library. George E. Grimes, master of Masonic ceremonies, and other participants in the proceedings were Rev. W. H. Grim, Grand Master Frank E. Gavin, Mrs. O. B. Harris and John C. Chaney.

Sept. 8, 1904—Miss Julia Mason appointed librarian.

March 8, 1906—Carnegie donates another thousand dollars to be used for putting in a furnace and furnishing the basement of the building.

June 4, 1906—Unveiling at public library of bust of Daniel W. Voorhees, replica of the one in the Library of Congress. Miss Naomi Harris in charge of the ceremony, and an address by Claude G. Bowers, of Terre Haute.

The Academy of Science of Sullivan county was an institution which was organized for the promotion of scientific studies and investigation. The meeting for organization was held July 17, 1882, the first officers elected being: Sewell Coulson, president; J. R. Hinkle, vice president; John C. Chaney, secretary; John W. Spencer, corresponding secretary; John T. Gunn, treasurer; George W. Buff, Uriah Coulson and O. J. Craig, trustees.

## CHAPTER XXIII.

### DRAINAGE.

Floods and overflows have from the first settlement to the present time been a serious problem to the residents of the Wabash valley. The flood plain of the river, on one side or the other and sometimes on both sides of this stream, contain thousands of acres of rich soil that, under favorable conditions, produce the largest yields per acre in the county. Inland from the river are also large areas which, though of undulating topography, have sluggish drainage and in times of great rainfall become inundated, resulting in damage and occasionally total destruction of the year's crops.

In Fairbanks, Turman, Gill and Haddon townships, bordering on the Wabash, are the most serious aspects of the problem. The meandering tributaries that drain the water of these townships into the river are quite inadequate, and the fertile prairies have often been untillable because of excessive rains.

At an earlier day the drainage of farms was left largely to nature and such means as the individual alone could undertake. By an act of Congress of September 28, 1850 (Sec. 2479, R. V. U. S.) all of the swamps and overflowed lands in Indiana, unfit for cultivation, were granted to the state. The smallest subdivision was taken as a basis and where over fifty percent of such tract came within the provision of the

statute the whole was to be included. By this act a little over ten thousand acres, in Sullivan county, were included in this grant of "swamp land." The greater part of these lands were along the Wabash river and Busseron creek in the "civil townships" of Fairbanks, Turman, Gill and Haddon. Of the "congressional townships," T. 6 N. R. 10 W. and T. 8 and R. 8 contained the largest acreage—the former having ninety-four forty-acre tracts and the latter forty-nine. This grant was accepted by the state and legislature by an act of the general assembly, approved May 29, 1852, provided for the sale of these lands and the application of the proceeds. The lands were put on the market at \$1.25 an acre, in cash, and this was to be a "special fund" to be used in reclaiming the lands and for no other purpose. (Those interested are referred to the act itself for particulars.)

This was not much inducement to buyers, for at that time better lands could be bought from the government at the same price. Much of this land, however, was bought by the owners of contiguous farms for pasture and range for stock, and for this purpose was a valuable addition to their tillable farms.

No thought, it seems, had occurred to them of availing themselves of drains or levees, as many of them had already selected the same class of land, preferring it to the drier and higher land. About 1848 a system of levees were projected for preventing the overflow of low lands in the south end of Sullivan county and the north end of Knox county. The distance covered about five miles—three in Sullivan and two in Knox—and were designed to benefit several thousand acres in the two counties. Much of this land was already fenced and in cultivation and very productive, but owing to frequent high water fences and crops were damaged or carried away. The enterprise was to be carried out by a voluntary association of those who had a community of interest. The survey



indicated that by a series of levees varying in height from three to twelve feet and in length from a few hundred yards to one mile, all of the lands south and east of the survey would be protected. As there are no records of this work no particulars can be given.

The contract was let to Solomon Wolfe, who began the work at once, and as there were many idle men who had been at work on the "Wabash and Erie canal," the work was soon completed. This experiment was successful in saving two or three crops, which more than paid the expense, but by reason of exceedingly high water a portion of the work was destroyed. This was largely due to faulty engineering (if any), as there was only one foot of base to one of height and only three feet of width on top and the elevation only one foot above high water mark. No account had been taken of the fact that when the water was shut out of so much low land and confined to a narrow channel it would reach a greater height. The lesson was expensive, but it was worth what it cost, as the levees have been rebuilt on a more scientific basis, and are still doing service. None of the land included in this levee district was effected by the acts of the state or general government heretofore cited. They had all been entered long prior to the passage of those laws, but it is a little remarkable that those who have bought up large quantities of those lands since those laws went into effect and have expended large sums in reclaiming those lands have not availed themselves of the benefits offered by the government and the state in all cases where the same were applicable.

In 1869 a state ditching law was passed, though it has been only within the last quarter of a century that effective co-operation has brought about any noteworthy results. The residents of Gill Prairie were probably the first to undertake the work on an extensive scale, such as would benefit a large area. In 1886 the contract was let for the construction

of a seven-mile ditch. John Rogers was ditch commissioner at the time, and the ditch was often called the Rogers ditch. Its benefits were more than the improvement of the lands for purposes of tilling, for the removal of stagnant pools and swamps also caused a cessation, to a large degree, of the chills and fevers which had always been prevalent.

In 1889 an act was passed by the legislature providing for the incorporation of associations and the issuing of bonds for the purpose of drainage and the prevention of overflows by the cutting of ditches, the construction of levees, etc., the cost of such improvements to be proportionately assessed against the lands thereby benefited. In 1903 the former ditching law was amended, and the opportunities for remonstrance against the proposed improvement were decreased.

The building of ditches and levees has cost the county and its citizens thousands of dollars during the last ten or fifteen years. The construction of levees to protect the farm lands from the high waters of the river has received special attention within the last few years. The landowners of Gill township petitioned for the building of a levee in 1893, and one was subsequently built in that township. During the high waters of July, 1902, it was estimated that the Gill levee had protected twelve thousand acres from overflow. The levee was built at a cost of nearly seventy-five thousand dollars, being twelve miles long, and the lands benefited were said to have been raised in value from almost nothing to from fifty to eighty dollars an acre.

In the summer of 1902 the movement was taken up to construct a levee along the Wabash in Fairbanks and Turman townships. This resulted in the following year in the organization of the Island Levee Association, which in July voted to build the levee. Suits were brought to prevent the work, but were finally compromised, and the route of the levee was surveyed from a point one mile north of the Turman-Fairbanks

township line to the mouth of Turman creek, thence along the creek to Collier's bridge. The total length was eleven miles, and the cost of construction was nearly ninety thousand dollars. Bonds were issued to the amount of eighty-five thousand five hundred dollars to pay for the work.

In several of the floods which have taken place in recent years the water has broken through the levees, and almost destroyed the embankments, and in several cases the levees have been saved only by cutting them and allowing the floods to spread out over the fields. Ditches and levees have often proved inadequate to cope with the conditions resulting from excessive rainfall, but on the whole these means have effected vast saving and have added much wealth in real estate and productivity to the county's resources.

## CHAPTER XXIV.

### FAIRS—THE GRANGE AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS.

The Sullivan County Agricultural Society was organized at Carlisle in 1852, and the first fair was held in October. The principal officers at that time were W. D. Blackburn, James H. Reid and J. H. Paxton. In a few years Merom and Sullivan became rival claimants against Carlisle for the fair, but when the directors decided to let the fair be held at the place which contributed the most money, Carlisle retained the title by raising \$326 and thus secured the fair meetings for the following five years. Some facts about the fourth annual fair, in 1855, are found in the Sullivan *Democrat* of that year. The grounds were located near the depot, on the east side of town. Races were the principal feature, and one of the events of this fair was a riding match between three ladies. The gate admission was ten cents, and the total receipts from this source were only fifty dollars. The premiums amounting to over three hundred dollars, the association's treasury was bankrupt.

The fairs were held at Carlisle for twelve successive years, but few were successful and the attractions were meager, and popular interest almost completely failed during the years of the war. In 1865 it was voted to move the fair to Sullivan, but no fair was held during that year,



the first one at the county seat being in the fall of 1866. In 1868 the association leased the grounds from John Giles, on the west side of the Sullivan-Fairbanks road. The fairs were held with moderate success for a few years, but that of 1878 was pronounced a flat failure and nothing more was heard of the society until 1885, when C. P. Riggs was president and C. M. Stewart secretary. A very successful fair was held in 1886. In 1888 many improvements were made, a new track built, deep wells sunk on the grounds, and new amphitheater and floral hall. Since 1896 the annual county fair has ceased to be an institution.

In 1908 an association, of which C. D. Hunt was president, inaugurated a series of "People's Saturday Fairs," comprising varied attractions and events scheduled for each Saturday, beginning August 15 and closing October 31. These brought a large number of people into Sullivan and aroused much interest.

### *The Grange.*

During the seventies the Grange movement was a strong influence in this and other counties of Indiana. For several years it was a force to be reckoned with in politics, and in many communities newspapers were established and devoted their columns principally to the promotion of the interests of the organization. The general organization took the name of Patrons of Husbandry and the local lodges were Granges. In a few states the order is still strong, though its activity is now almost entirely confined to the advancement of the economic and social welfare of the farmers through co-operation and organization and does not appear as a political factor.

This order reached its height in Sullivan county between 1874 and 1876. Its essential purposes were thus defined:

To secure social and educational advantages.

To help in sickness, death and pecuniary misfortune.

Knowledge of farming.

Economics in purchasing.

Abolition of credit system.

Co-operation in trade.

The Granges reported as organized in this county in January, 1874, were the following: Buck Creek, William M. Moore, master; Cass Grange, J. S. Moss, master; Jefferson Grange, John Hume, master; Curry Grange, Ed Morgan, master; Turman Grange, T. K. Cushman, master; Oak Grange, John A. McKee, master; Turtle Creek Grange, George W. Hanchett, master; Fairbanks Grange, Eli Dix, master; Concord Grange, Elisha Chestnut, master; Union Grange, John Boles, master.

#### *F. M. B. A.*

The first lodge of the Farmers' Mutual Benefit Association organized in Sullivan county was at Pleasantville, July 24, 1889, with twenty-seven charter members. The objects of the association were to unite farmers in all matters pertaining to the interest of their calling, to improve the methods of agriculture, horticulture and stock raising, to devise and encourage such systems of concentration and co-operation as will diminish the cost of production, etc.

October 26, 1889, the county assembly of the F. M. B. A. was organized at Carlisle, composed of eighteen delegates, representing the twelve subordinate lodges of the county. James L. Nash, of the Paxton lodge, was elected president, and W. I. Long, of the Jefferson lodge, was elected secretary. In January, 1890, the reports of the county assembly showed the membership of the F. M. B. A. in the county to be 1,516.

The F. M. B. A. had some things in common with the Patrons of Husbandry, or Grange. It also, during the two or three years following its organization, had some of the characteristics of the Populist movement. It attempted to maintain a farmers' store, it also sought to secure legislation in behalf of the farmer and laborer, and the last record of its activity in the county, during the panicky days of 1893, was a resolution declaring for the free and unlimited coinage of silver. The association also endeavored to operate a milling plant and a grain and wool warehouse in the interests of its members. Among other principles and policies to which it declared allegiance were an income tax, the prohibition of alien ownership of land, reduction of salaries of county officials, opposition to the construction of gravel roads by taxation, etc. The F. M. B. A. was part of the great national movement that affected the politics and social life of the people of the United States during the early nineties, and with the passing of the crisis of that movement the history of the local organization seems to have come to an end.

*Farmers' Institute.*

The Farmers' Institute, held for the discussion of questions relating to agriculture and all departments of the farmer's life, has long been an important factor in the agricultural progress of this and other states. The first Farmers' Institute in Sullivan county was organized twenty years ago. The preliminary meeting was held in the court house in February, 1889, with Dan Herbert chairman and T. J. Wolfe secretary. When the organization was completed, February 16th, about sixty names were enrolled as members, and the following occupied official positions: John L. Shields, Samuel Nicholson, John Sisson, William Purcell, Ed Pearson, E. C. Gaskins, James Pounds, W. M. Moore, George Goodwin. The

Institute has held meetings at different points in the county and the attendance has usually been large. Besides the discussions by the practical farmers and their wives, experts have been invited to the meetings, and one or more are usually present each time.



## CHAPTER XXV.

### TELEPHONES.

One of the important facilities of business and domestic life and one that has become so essentially a part of modern life that people seldom realize the conditions of a few years past, is the telephone. In June, 1882, the county commissioners granted the Sullivan Telephone Exchange Company the right to erect poles and wires along and across the roads of the county, and by the latter part of July following the exchange was in operation in Sullivan. Connection was perfected to Carlisle in August of the same year, the instrument being located in the railroad station and there being only one in town.

This was the beginning of the Central Union Telephone Company, which in 1883 had about 350 individual telephones in Terre Haute and had extended its service to the adjacent towns of Brazil, Greencastle, Carbon, Sullivan, Shelburn, Farmersburg, Paris, Marshall, Vincennes, and the city of Indianapolis.

However, it is within the last dozen years that the telephone has become a familiar aid and convenience in Sullivan county. While the Bell Company had a monopoly the expense of individual service prevented its general extension, and it appears that during the early nineties the only telephone service in Sullivan was long-distance connection with other towns. An item in the *Democrat* of February 2, 1894, says that

the telephone was a wonderful convenience and was generally patronized, but was finally abandoned on account of the high cost, and with the expiration of the patent on the Bell instrument it was hoped that the price might be lowered. In 1897 another item offers the use of the *Democrat* phone to all its friends, from which it is clear that the use of the telephone was still very limited in this town. In 1904 the Central Union Telephone Company was granted a franchise to enter Sullivan. It had been granted a similar franchise in 1896, but had not taken advantage of its provisions. This action of the Bell interests in seeking to extend its business in Sullivan was no doubt the result of the great activity on the part of the independent local companies. In 1903 the Farmersburg Mutual Telephone Company and the Hayworth Telephone Company had lines in operation in the northern part of the county, while there were local exchanges in Fairbanks and Turman townships, and in Jefferson and perhaps in other townships. Most of these exchanges were operated on the co-operative plan, and the service cost very little. At the Pleasantville exchange each subscriber paid fifty cents each three months, and this was more than sufficient to pay expenses. Since that time there has been a gradual consolidation of the independent interests and the Sullivan Telephone Company, which was incorporated in 1903, controls or works in agreement with the independent telephone systems throughout the county and state and in Illinois.

## CHAPTER XXVI.

### RURAL FREE DELIVERY.

A few years ago the free delivery of mail from the postoffice to individuals was regarded as a luxury which was only possible in large cities. It is indicative of the rapid progress of our country during the last two decades that at the close of the fiscal year in June, 1906, there were in the United States 35,766 routes for the free delivery of mail from the postoffice to country residents, some of those who received the benefits of the system residing as much as a dozen miles from the postoffice. The annual expenditure of the government during the above year for this kind of service amounted to about twenty-five million dollars.

Free delivery of mail through country districts was first given a practical trial in the United States in 1896, only ten years before the remarkable system had been attained which is indicated in the statistics for 1906. At the end of the first fiscal year in June, 1897, only \$14,840 had been expended on these experiments, and but eighty-three carriers were employed. Rural delivery was begun as an experiment, and its continuance and expansion were left to the discretion of the postmaster general. It was on this experimental basis that appropriations were made until July, 1902, when the service was formally adopted and declared to be a permanent part of the postal system of the United States.

The conditions precedent to the establishment of rural free delivery routes are—Good roads, unobstructed by gates, no unbridged creeks or streams not fordable at all seasons, and a possible patronage of one hundred or more families on each route of twenty-four miles. Such conditions represent a long advance over such primitive roads and scattered settlement as prevailed in Sullivan county during the first half of the last century, and for this reason rural free delivery is entirely characteristic of modern life.

The first rural delivery routes in Sullivan county were established in April, 1903, two wagons being started from Sullivan, one north and one south, and Farmersburg was also chosen as a center of distribution. By July, 1904, there were six routes radiating from the county seat, and by April, 1905, sixteen routes were in operation in the county, and a little later seventeen new ones were established, giving daily mail facilities to practically every corner of the county.

A noteworthy result of rural delivery has been the abolition of rural postoffices, formerly maintained for the convenience of a neighborhood, but which under present conditions are not justified by the business and population of the locality. The postoffices in Sullivan county in January, 1903 were 22 in number, being as follows:

Alum Cave	Fairbanks	New Lebanon
Burchard	Farmersburg	Paxton
Caledonia	Farnsworth	Pleasantville
Carlisle	Graysville	Riverton
Cass	Hymera	Shelburn
Delcarbo	Jackson Hill	Staffordshire
Dugger	Merom	Sullivan
Embury		



The postoffices of Sullivan county, according to the official postal guide for 1909, are the following:

Caledonia	Farnsworth	New Lebanon
Carlisle	Gilmour	Paxton
Cass	Graysville	Pleasantville
Dugger	Hymera	Shelburn
Fairbanks	Merom	Sullivan
Farmersburg		

## CHAPTER XXVII.

### CIVIL LISTS.

#### *State Senators from Sullivan County.*

1818, William Polke.	1857, W. E. McLean.
1821, Thomas H. Blake.	1861, Henry K. Wilson.
1822, John Jenckes.	1865, B. W. Hanna.
1825, John M. Coleman.	1869, James M. Hanna.
1828, William C. Linton.	1871, Joshua Alsop.
1832, James Farrington.	1872, M. B. Riggs.
1834, George Boon.	1875, Henry K. Wilson.
1837, James T. Moffatt.	1879, F. W. Viehe.
1843, Ransom W. Akin.	1883, Joshua Ernest.
1846, James H. Henry.	1890, Charles T. Akin.
1849, James M. Hanna.	1894, Andrew Humphreys.
1855, Michael Combs.	1902, George W. Thralls.

#### *State Representatives.*

1817-20, Robert Buntin.	1822-23, Henry D. Palmer.
1820-22, Robert Sturgis.	1824, Josiah Mann.
1820-22, John McDonald (representing Sullivan and Knox).	1825-30, George Boon.
	1831-32, John W. Davis.
	1833, James Depauw.

1834, Joseph Latshaw.	Theophilus Chowning.
1835, Seth Cushman.	1853, Squire McDonald.
1836, Joseph Briggs.	William McKee.
Samuel Brown.	1857, John W. Davis.
1837, Samuel Brown.	Michael Branson.
William R. Haddon.	1858, David Usrey.
1838, Samuel Brown.	1861, W. W. Owens.
George Boon.	1863, S. G. Burton.
1839, W. R. Haddon.	1867, Benjamin Wolfe.
Justus Davis.	1869, N. D. Miles.
1840, George Boon.	1873, S. S. Coffman.
1841, John W. Davis.	1875, James L. Nash.
Justus Davis.	1877, S. S. Coffman.
1842, John W. Davis.	1879, John C. Briggs.
1843, Thomas Turman.	1881, Charles T. Akin.
1845, John H. Wilson.	1883, Charles T. Akin and
Silas Osborn.	James B. Patten.
1846, Benjamin Wolfe.	1888, John T. Beasley and
Silas Osborn.	E. A. Lacy.
1847, Benjamin Wolfe.	1890, John T. Beasley and
1848, Benjamin Wolfe.	I. N. Kester.
Silas Osborn.	1894, J. Higbee and
1849-50, James K. O'Haver.	J. W. Redman.
James H. Wier.	1902, David N. Curry.
1850, John H. Wilson.	1906, Thomas B. Springer.
1851, J. W. Davis.	

*County Commissioners.*

The county commissioners at the time of the burning of the court house in February, 1850, were Joseph W. Wolfe, Jesse Haddon and Levi

Maxwell. Haddon's term expired the same year, and Wolfe's in 1851. The commissioners elected during the succeeding years as vacancies occurred or terms expired are named in the following order :

1850, William Beard.	1874, Charles Scott.
1851, Samuel Brodie.	1875, William Combs.
1852, Jacob Hoke (vice Brodie, deceased).	1876, Levi Woodward.
1853, Levi Maxwell.	1877, Charles Scott.
1854, Josiah Wolfe.	1878, James J. Snyder.
1855, John A. Cummins.	1879, Phillip R. Jenkins (vice Woodward).
1856, Hezekiah Riggs.	1879, Jackson Rich.
1857, John Sproatt.	1881, James J. Snyder.
1859, William H. Griffin.	1882, Jacob Billman and William Arnett.
1860, C. B. Shepherd.	1884, Jacob Billman and William Schaffer.
1861, John A. Cummins.	1888, Harrison Pitman and James Pounds.
1862, W. H. Griffin.	1890, Harrison B. Pitman and James L. Nash.
1863, C. B. Shepherd.	1894, John Wood and J. R. Joseph.
1864, Isham W. Allen.	1902, Joseph Asbury and Wiley Gambill.
1865, Eli Dix.	1906, Hilla Lovelace and Lewis O. Turnbull.
1866, Levi Woodward.	
1867, Henry R. Wallace.	
1868, Eli Dix.	
1869, Levi Woodward.	
1870, H. R. Wallace.	
1871, Eli Dix.	
1872, William Combs.	
1873, William A. Thompson.	



*Sheriffs.*

1817, Morgan Eaton (January to September).	1860, Matthew McCammon.
1817, Bailey Johnson.	1863, Alexander Snow.
1821, George Boon.	1866, W. H. Mayfield.
1825, Edward Wilks.	1870, Thomas J. Land.
1827, Richard Dodd.	1872, John F. Curry.
1831, Seth Cushman.	1874, Owen C. Hancock.
1835, Shadrack Sherman.	1875, John Dudley.
1839, Absalom Hurst.	1880, James L. Berry.
1841, John H. Wilson.	1884, L. H. Willis.
1845, David H. Hancock.	1888, W. H. Hawkins.
1846, F. Garretson.	1890, W. H. Hawkins.
1849, Henry Dooley.	1894, William Mills.
1854, Zachariah Burton.	1902, John S. Dudley.
1856, James W. Brodie.	1906, Marion F. Walters.
	1908, Frank Wible.

*Auditors.*

1841-52, H. K. Wilson.	1872, Robert M. Griffith.
1852-54, Joseph W. Wolfe.	1878, David Crawley.
1855-59, H. K. Wilson.	1890, William Willis.
1859, Ferdinand Basler.	1894, James R. Riggs.
1863, Ferdinand Basler.	1902, E. E. Russell.
1867, Murray Briggs.	1906, Ben C. Crowder.

*Treasurers.*

1850, John S. Davis.	1862, John Giles.
1854, W. B. Ogle.	1866, W. H. Griffin.
1858, Ed Price.	1870, David Crawley.

1874, Abraham McClellan.	1894, Wm. R. Frakes.
1878, C. P. Riggs.	1902, A. V. Minich.
1882, Charles L. Davis.	1906, Thomas E. Ward.
1890, Jonathan Scott.	

*Recorders.*

1817, John Jones.	1861, Robert K. Hamill.
1817, Robert Buntin.	1865, J. L. Griffin.
1818, Samuel Coleman.	1874, John N. Fordyce.
1830, M. E. Nash.	1882, Joshua Beasley.
1836, Benjamin Wolfe.	1890, V. D. Cummins.
1846, H. K. Wilson.	1894, V. D. Cummins.
1847, James H. Reed.	1902, W. L. Hunt.
1857, W. G. Neff.	1906, A. J. Curry.

*Clerks.*

1817, Robert Buntin.	1871, Jesse Bicknell.
1817, Samuel Coleman, vice Buntin, resigned.	1879, Thomas J. Mann.
1830, Benjamin Wolfe.	1883, Thomas J. Mann.
1842, H. K. Wilson.	1887, P. R. Jenkins.
1851, Joseph W. Wolfe.	1891, Wm. M. Denney.
1859, J. W. Hinkle.	1894, Ed. Shepherd.
1863, Edward Price.	1902, Tilghman Ogle.
1867, W. C. Griffith.	1906, Arthur E. DeBaun.

*Surveyors.*

1818, John Wallace.	1854, W. S. Hinkle.
* * * *	1856, Samuel M. Reed.
1852, Enoch Walls.	1858, Thomas B. Silvers.

1860, Nathan Thomas.	1892, F. M. Cunningham.
1870, Alonzo F. Estabrook.	1902, R. L. Bailey,
1888, B. E. Briggs	1906, R. L. Bailey.
1890, B. E. Briggs	1908, Daniel Sisson.

*Coroners.*

1817, William Ledgerwood (January to September).	1852, Benjamin Timmons.
1817, John M. Peebles.	1853, B. D. Walls.
1818, William Ledgerwood.	1854, A. S. Anderson.
1819, John Jones.	1856, Surrell Nichols.
1820, George Mack.	1858, Daniel Case.
1822, James Lisman.	1860, John Turner.
1824, James Brooks.	1861, Thomas McIntosh.
1826, Seth Cushman.	1862, B. B. Neal.
1828, Shadrack Sherman.	1868, James W. Brodie.
1830, Absalom Hurst.	1870, W. C. McBride.
1832, William Hill.	1872, S. T. Trout.
1836, Landon Parks.	1874, Caleb Snapp.
1838, Jesse J. Benefiel.	1876, Owen Davis.
1840, Joseph B. Booker.	1878, John Wagoner.
1842, George D. Clark.	1888, James E. Martin.
1846, Samuel Wilson.	1890, Oliver P. Harris.
1848, Nimrod Walls.	1902, W. P. Maxwell.
1850, Charles W. Hanley.	1906, C. E. Brewer.

*Population.*

The population of Knox county in 1800 and 1810, at both of which censuses Sullivan county was still a part of the original county, was as

follows: 1800—2,402 and 28 slaves; 1810—4,551 and 135 slaves. The population of Sullivan county during the subsequent decades has been:

1820.....	3,498	1870.....	18,453
1830.....	4,630	1880.....	20,336
1840.....	8,315	1890.....	21,887
1850.....	10,141	1900.....	26,005
1860.....	15,064		



## CHAPTER XVIII

### A SKETCH OF INDIANA THROUGH THE TERRITORIAL PERIOD AND UP TO ORGANIZATION AS A STATE.

By an act approved May 7, 1800, congress provided, "That from and after the fourth day of July next, all that part of the territory of the United States northwest of the Ohio river, which lies westward of the line beginning at the Ohio, opposite to the mouth of Kentucky river, and running thence to Fort Recovery, and thence north, until it shall intersect the territorial line between the United States and Canada, shall, for the purpose of temporary government, constitute a separate territory, and be called the Indiana Territory." The act provided further, "That there shall be established within the said territory a government in all respects similar to that provided by the ordinance of congress, passed on the thirteenth day of July, 1787, for the government of the territory of the United States northwest of the river Ohio; and the inhabitants thereof shall be entitled to, and enjoy, all and singular, the rights, privileges and advantages granted and secured to the people by the said ordinance." A further provision of the act creating the Indiana territory was, "That so much of the ordinance for the government of the territory of the United States northwest of the Ohio river, as relates to the organization of a general assembly therein, and pre-

scribes the powers thereof, shall be in force and operate in the Indiana territory, whenever satisfactory evidence shall be given to the governor thereof, that such is the wish of a majority of the freeholders, notwithstanding there may not be therein five thousand free male inhabitants of the age of twenty-one years and upwards." But until there should be such five thousand inhabitants the representatives in the general assembly, if one should be organized, should be not less than seven nor more than nine; to be apportioned by the governor among the several counties, agreeably to the number of free male inhabitants of the age of twenty-one years and upwards, in each. As to the eastern boundary line, as fixed in the act, it was further provided, "That whenever that part of the territory of the United States which lies to the eastward of a line beginning at the mouth of the Great Miami river, running thence due north to the territorial line between the United States and Canada, shall be erected into an independent state, and admitted into the union on an equal footing with the original states, thenceforth said line shall become and remain permanently the boundary line between such state and the Indiana territory." A final provision was that, until the general assembly should determine otherwise, "Saint Vincennes, on the Wabash river, shall be the seat of government for the Indiana territory."

The Harrison mansion is the name given to the venerable building in which the legislature of the territory held its sessions and in which the governor resided and where the general court was held. The building is still in a good state of preservation; and efforts have often been made to have the state secure it as a historical museum.

The house, from an architectural point of view, as well as from its massiveness, seems remarkable. At the time it was erected its situation was a wilderness, far from civilization, and to get the materials for its construction, the glass, iron, etc., meant a year or more of time before

they could be delivered at Vincennes. Historical societies have endeavored to have it kept as a lasting monument to the memory of those who built so well and as a reminder that this was the birthplace of government, religion and education in the west. The building is two stories high, with a large attic, and a basement under the entire place. It was completed in 1805. The ceilings are thirteen and one-half feet high and the rooms are spacious. The walls are of brick and inside and out are eighteen inches thick. The glass in the windows came from England, and it took two years to have it delivered. The wood was sawed with the old-fashioned whip-saw, and all the nails were hand-forged on the grounds. The woodwork is hard-paneled, finished with beading and is of solid, clear black walnut. It is said that the walnut in the house today is worth a small fortune.

So came Indiana into existence, with a capital of her own, and with even a freer form of government than that of the northwest territory, prior to its legislative stage. The area of this new Indiana territory included all of the present state of Indiana, except a small wedge-shaped section in the southeast part of the state, east of a line running from a point on the Ohio opposite the mouth of the Kentucky river, northeasterly to Fort Recovery, in the state of Ohio, this line being the old Indian boundary line, between those points named in the treaty of Greenville. The new territory included also a narrow strip less than three miles in width on the west side of the state of Ohio, north of Fort Recovery, and lying between the north and south line through Fort Recovery and the present boundary of the two states. The territory included besides, all of the state of Michigan lying west of the north and south line through Fort Recovery; also the whole of Illinois and Wisconsin; and so much of Minnesota as lies east of the Mississippi river. The limits of the Indiana territory, for a time, extended even west of the Mississippi.

By an act approved March 26, 1804, congress attached to Indiana all that part of Louisiana west of the Mississippi and north of the thirty-third degree of north latitude, under the name of the District of Louisiana. At a session of the governor and judges of Indiana territory, held at Vincennes, beginning October 1, 1804, a number of laws were adopted for the District of Louisiana. During the following year, however, by an act of congress approved March 3, 1805, this district was organized into a separate territory. This was truly an imperial domain. Detroit, Sault Ste. Marie, St. Ignace, with eastern Michigan and all Ohio, remained in the northwest territory until the admission of Ohio as a state of the Union, November 29, 1802, when the northwest territory, as a political division, ceased to exist. At that date also, congress attached to Indiana the remainder of Michigan, or Wayne county, as it was then called; and, in 1803, William Henry Harrison, as governor of the Indiana territory, assumed jurisdiction over all of Michigan, and extended the limits of Wayne county to Lake Michigan. Thereafter, until the formation of the territory of Michigan, June 30, 1805, Detroit, Sault Ste. Marie, and St. Ignace, as well as the sites of Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo and Niles, with all the valley of the St. Joseph, were in Indiana. Chicago and St. Louis were then in Indiana; and so were the sites of Milwaukee, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Duluth. The inland sea, Lake Michigan, was wholly within the Indiana territory. The ambition of Napoleon is said to have been to make the Mediterranean a French lake; and he came near succeeding. La Salle made Lake Michigan a French lake; it was afterwards a British lake; and now it is the only one of the great lakes that is wholly American; in the first years of the nineteenth century, it was an Indiana lake, surrounded on every side by Indiana territory.

On May 13, 1800, the appointment by the president of William



Henry Harrison, of Virginia, as first governor of the Indiana territory was confirmed by the senate. Harrison had been secretary of the northwest territory, and also delegate in congress from that territory. On the next day, John Gibson, of Pennsylvania, a pioneer of distinction, was appointed first secretary of the territory. It was to Secretary Gibson that the great chief Logan, in 1774, delivered his celebrated speech, known to every school boy. William Clark, Henry Vanderburg and John Griffin were appointed the first judges of the territory. Harrison did not come to assume his office until January, 1801. John Gibson, the secretary, arrived at Vincennes early in July, 1800, and, as acting governor, proceeded to make appointments of territorial officers and to provide for the administration of the affairs of the new government, which was formally organized July 4, 1800. The first entry on the executive journal, dated at Saint Vincennes, July 4, 1800, reads as follows: "This day the government of the Indiana territory commenced. William Henry Harrison having been appointed governor; John Gibson, secretary; William Clark, Henry Vander Burgh and John Griffin, judges in and over said territory." This was the second time in the history of our commonwealth that July 4th proved to be a notable day. It was on July 4, 1778, that George Rogers Clark surprised and captured Kaskaskia, then the capital of the British possessions northwest of the Ohio, thus opening up the first page of our history, as a part of the American Union; and now again on July 4, 1800, was organized the government of Indiana, as an incipient commonwealth of the republic.

On January 12, 1801, Governor Harrison having arrived at Vincennes and issued proclamation therefor, the governor and judges convened in legislative session and adopted laws for the government of the territory. This was the first body ever convened within the present limits of Indiana to make laws for our commonwealth. The ordinance

of 1787 continued in force, so far as applicable, as also the laws already adopted for the government of the northwest territory before the division.

The new court, called the General Court of the Indiana territory, organized and held its first session at Vincennes, March 3, 1801. The court record opens as follows: "At a General Court of the Indiana Territory, called and held at Saint Vincennes the third day of March, in the year one thousand eight hundred and one. The commissions of the judges being read in open court, they took their seats, and present: William Clark, Henry Vander Burgh and John Griffin, Judges. Henry Hurst, Clerk of the General Court, having produced his commission from the governor and a certificate of his having taken the oath of allegiance and oath of office, took his place. John Rice Jones, Attorney-General, produced his commission, and a certificate of his having taken the oath of allegiance and oath of office." One of the orders made on this first day of court is of much significance. It was for the examination of certain persons "for counsellor's degree, agreeable to a law of the Territory." Among the persons so ordered to be examined as to his proficiency in the law was the Attorney-General himself, John Rice Jones. After obtaining their degree as counsellors, those distinguished gentlemen were required to appear at subsequent terms of court, to be examined for their second degree, for admission to practice as attorneys-at-law. Now-a-days it is the constitutional privilege of "every person of good moral character, being a voter," to be admitted "to practice law in all courts of justice." Which is the better system in "a government of the people, for the people, and by the people," may perhaps be a subject of debate. One may become a good lawyer, though admitted to practice without examination; and he may be a poor lawyer, though admitted after the most severe examination. "The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves that we are underlings."

The business of this early supreme court was very light, as compared with the business of the courts of our day. From the organization of the court, March 3, 1801, until the close of its last term, September 16, 1816, just before the territorial form of government gave way to the establishment of a permanent state government, two manuscript dockets, or order books, one of 457 and the other of 120 pages were found sufficient to contain all the orders of the court. The court sat at Vincennes from its organization until 1813, when the seat of government was removed to Corydon, in Harrison county.

The general court, unlike the supreme court of our day, had original as well as appellate jurisdiction. The business, however, was usually appellate, the appeals being taken from the several county courts. Yet the most important case that came before the court was an original action for slander, brought by the governor, William Henry Harrison, against one William McIntosh, a wealthy Scotch resident of Vincennes, and said to be a relative of the distinguished Sir James McIntosh. The case was tried by a jury selected as follows: Forty-eight men were summoned by elisors, appointed by the court; of these, the plaintiff struck out twelve names, after which the defendant struck out twelve. From the remaining twenty-four a jury of twelve men was drawn by lot. The jury gave the governor a verdict for four thousand dollars, a part of which was remitted and the rest given to charity. The judges of the general court, like the judges of our supreme court in their respective circuits, had power to preside in the circuit courts; and we learn that Benjamin Parke, after whom Parke county was named, while judge of the general court, rode on horseback from Vincennes to Wayne county, to try a case of larceny. It is said that his judicial bench on that occasion was a log of wood. The case was one of petit larceny,—exceedingly petty, indeed,—the theft of a pocket knife. The people of those days

sought the just enforcement of the law upon the statute books, according to its true intent and meaning, rather than the making of many new laws. A speedy hearing, a fair trial, a prompt acquittal of the innocent, a certain conviction of the guilty, the taking of no man's property without right and the delay of no man in the recovery of what belonged to him, —these things seemed to our simple forefathers the true ends of the administration of justice. They deemed the enforcement of the old laws of more consequence than the making of new ones. To remedy miscarriage of justice, they looked to the courts and to the officers appointed to administer the laws, rather than to the enactment of new laws.

The first judges of the general court were succeeded by Thomas Terry Davis, Waller Taylor, Benjamin Parke and James Scott. The last three occupied the bench until the territorial form of government came to a close, in 1816. The most distinguished of the judges, and one of the ablest public men in the history of Indiana, was Benjamin Parke. Soon after the close of his services as judge of the general court, he was appointed first judge of the United States district court for Indiana, serving from 1817 until his death, in 1835. Waller Taylor was also a man of distinction. While judge of the general court he served as major with Harrison at the battle of Tippecanoe. On the organization of the state government, in 1816, he was chosen as one of the first United States senators from Indiana, and served for two terms. James Scott, the third member of the general court at the time of its dissolution, was appointed one of the first judges of the state supreme court, and served for fourteen years. The attorneys-general for the territorial period were three in number,—James Rice Jones, Benjamin Parke and Thomas Randolph. Jones was one of the compilers of the Indiana code of 1807. Disappointed in his political aspirations, he went to Illinois, and afterwards to Missouri. He was a member of the first constitutional conven-



tion of Missouri, and afterwards member of the supreme court of that state. Thomas Randolph, the last attorney-general of the territory, was a cousin of John Randolph of Roanoke. He was killed at the battle of Tippecanoe, in 1811. The office of attorney-general ceased to exist from his death until its re-establishment by the legislature, under the new constitution, in 1855. To Benjamin Parke, and to General Washington Johnston, another distinguished lawyer, our supreme court is indebted for the nucleus of its present library,—one of the finest west of New York City. The books of Parke and Johnston upon the shelves of this library are made the more precious by the autographs of those eminent men. The salaries of the judges of the general court were seven hundred dollars a year each; that of the attorney-general, at first sixty and afterwards one hundred dollars a year.

The questions brought for decision before the general court of the Indiana territory were in many cases quite different from those that have since engaged the attention of our courts. Legislation itself was different. Many acts now deemed criminal were then either sanctioned by the law, or at least looked upon with indifference or even indulgence. On the other hand, some offenses were then punished more severely than at present. Not only treason and murder, but also arson, horse-stealing upon a second conviction, and rape were punishable by death. Burglary, hog stealing and bigamy, in addition to other penalties, rendered the offender liable to be punished by whipping. But duelling was punishable only by a fine; although all officers, whether legislative, executive or judicial, as well as attorneys-at-law, were required to take an oath that they had not given or accepted a challenge to a duel. In their legislation against corruption in elections, the men of those days seem to have been wiser than some of our modern legislators. They punished the briber, the bribe-giver; while more recent laws, in many cases, have

punished only the bribe-taker. Liquor laws also differed widely from our own. Tavern keepers might have their licenses revoked, not only for failing to do their duty towards their guests, as to giving proper attention and providing wholesome food for man and beast, but also for failure to keep on hand "ordinary liquors of good and salutary quality." Provisions of this kind, in favor of pure food and against adulteration, again seem to be receiving some attention from legislators, both in congress and in the general assembly.

As we have already seen, provision was made for the erection of pillories and whipping posts in every county for the punishment of criminals. And not only men, but even women, were publicly whipped for violations of law. Imprisonment for debt was also authorized by the laws of the territory, as it was then generally throughout the United States. Lotteries, on the contrary, now regarded as not only illegal but even as immoral, were in those days, rather favored by the law.

By an act of the legislature, approved September 17, 1807, the Vincennes university was chartered by the legislature. It is the oldest educational institution of that rank in the state, if not in the west. Among the provisions of the charter was one for the raising of twenty thousand dollars "for the purpose of procuring a library and the necessary philosophical and experimental apparatus" for such university. The trustees of the university were required to "appoint five discreet persons" as managers of the lottery, who were to have power "to adopt such schemes as they may deem proper, to sell the said tickets, and to superintend the drawing of the same, and the payment of the prizes." It was further provided that "said managers and trustees shall render an account of their proceedings therein at the next session of the legislature after the drawing of said lottery." It is clear that our worthy forefathers thought pillories and whipping posts suitable and proper means for the punish-

ment of wrong-doers; and that they were also of opinion that money for the promotion of the higher education of the people, might properly be secured by the establishment of a lottery. It was not until February 3, 1832, that an act was passed by the legislature making the conducting of a lottery a misdemeanor; but even in that act, for the purpose no doubt of protecting the Vincennes lottery, there was a saving clause in favor of lotteries "authorized by law." In the constitution of 1851, however, the prohibition was made absolute,—that "no lottery shall be authorized; nor shall the sale of lottery tickets be allowed." But, notwithstanding this distinct declaration in the constitution, added to the previous statutory enactment, the trustees of the university still persisted in keeping up their lottery; and in this practice they were long sustained by the courts. As late as the May term, 1879, of the supreme court, the lottery provision of the Vincennes university charter was held to be an inviolable contract, which neither the legislature nor even the people, in the framing of their constitution, could abrogate; and the Dartmouth college case and other high authority was cited in support of the decision. "We hold," said the court, in *Kellum v. State*, 66 Ind. 588, "that the lottery established by the board of trustees for the Vincennes university, under the fifteenth section of the territorial law for the incorporation of said university was and is a lottery 'authorized by law.' " It was not until the May term, 1883, of the court, in the case of *State v. Woodward*, 89 Ind. 110, that the Vincennes lottery was finally declared illegal. The opinion in the case was the last written by the eminent jurist, James L. Worden; and followed a then recent ruling of the supreme court of the United States.

Another illustration of the persistence of customs which have long prevailed in a community, is exhibited in the history of slavery in Indiana. To many persons the statement may be a surprise that human slavery ever

existed within the borders of this state. We must remember, however, that, on the conquest of the northwest by George Rogers Clark, all this country became a part of Virginia, under the name of the county of Illinois. Our territory thus becoming a part of the state of Virginia, slavery had a legal foothold here, as it had there. Besides, the French, and also the Indians, held slaves in the territory previous to the Virginia conquest; the slaves so held being not only negroes but also captive Indians. After the deed of cession by Virginia to the United States, it was uncertain for a time whether slavery should be recognized or not; but, in the ordinance of 1787, for the government of the territory northwest of the Ohio, it was finally provided, in terms, that "There shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in said territory, otherwise than in the punishment of crimes, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted." The same prohibition was carried into both our state constitutions. Yet, under the plea that, before the passage of the ordinance, slave property had been lawfully acquired within the limits of the territory, it was argued that the holders of such property could not be legally deprived of it. The argument was even made that a mother being a slave, her children could be born only as slaves, and that the owner of the mother became the owner of the children so born.

The property interests of the country were enlisted in behalf of retaining the institution of slavery, and even of introducing more slaves into the country. A large part of the population was from Virginia and Kentucky, and this element constituted a powerful party in favor of perpetuating some form of African slavery. At the head of the slaveholding interest was the governor of the territory, William Henry Harrison. The governor was a Virginian, and seemed to be sincerely of opinion that the prosperity of the country depended upon the establishment of slavery. A strong effort was made to have the provision in the ordinance of 1787



prohibiting slavery suspended, at least for ten years. The contest before congress was long and earnest, but the petition from Indiana was finally denied by that body. Yet the effort was still persisted in to retain in slavery, by some form of indenture or otherwise, those who had been slaves or who were the children of slave mothers. As late as the year 1813, the act concerning taxation passed by the legislature provided, as a part of the schedule of assessments and taxation, for a tax "for every slave or servant of color, above twelve years of age, two dollars." Two cases came to the supreme court, in which the questions so raised were finally settled against the right to hold slaves in Indiana. In the first of these cases, *State v. Lasselle*, 1 Blackf. 60, the trial court had decided that a colored woman, Polly, was the property of Lasselle. The supreme court, without deciding whether Virginia, by consenting to the ordinance of 1787, intended to emancipate the slaves in the northwest or not, held that, in any event, slavery was effectually abolished by the Constitution of 1816. In the other case, that of *Mary Clark*, also a colored woman, decided in 1 Blackf. 122, Mary Clark had attempted to bind herself as a servant for a term of twenty years. She afterwards repented of her bargain; but the trial court held that she must comply with her contract. The supreme court, however, decided that such an indenture, though voluntarily made, was a species of slavery, and that the contract could not be enforced. Thus was wiped out the last vestige of legal bondage in Indiana. It is true that long after these decisions, many persons continued voluntarily to live out their lives as slaves within the limits of the state. Even as late as 1840, as shown by the United States census for that year, there were still three slaves in Indiana,—a man and a woman in Rush county and a woman in Putnam county. But slavery, as sanctioned by the law, was at an end; and it came to an end, in fact, with the death of the last of such voluntary slaves.

The desire on the part of many of the inhabitants to establish slavery in the Indiana territory resulted in a proclamation by the governor calling for the election by the people of delegates to meet in convention at Vincennes, December 20, 1802. This convention petitioned congress for a suspension of the sixth article of the ordinance of 1787, which prohibited slavery in the territory. The petition, as we have seen, was rejected by congress. The report of the committee to which the petition was referred was prepared by John Randolph, the distinguished orator and statesman, then senator from Virginia, and was an unanswerable argument against the establishment of slavery in the territory. The Vincennes convention which prepared the petition in favor of slavery is also noteworthy as being the first deliberative body elected to represent the people of Indiana. The convention consisted of twelve delegates. From the county of Knox, four; from the county of Randolph, three; from the county of St. Clair, three; and from the county of Clark, two. The counties of St. Clair and Randolph were in that part of the territory which is now the state of Illinois; Knox and Clark were in what is now Indiana. So small was the population, in 1802, of the territory now comprising these two great states. Wayne county, now the state of Michigan, does not seem to have been represented in this early convention.

The act of Congress for the organization of the Indiana territory, approved May 7, 1800, provided that whenever the governor became satisfied that a majority of the freeholders of the territory were in favor of the organization of a general assembly, an election for that purpose should be called, even though there might not then be in the territory five thousand free male inhabitants of the age of twenty-one years; thus providing an earlier period than was provided in the ordinance of 1787, for the establishment of a representative government. By a vote of the people taken September 11, 1804, it appeared that a majority of one hundred

and thirty-eight were in favor of organizing a general assembly; and accordingly Governor Harrison issued his proclamation declaring that Indiana had passed into the second stage of territorial government, and called an election for January 3, 1805, at which members of the first house of representatives were chosen in the several counties. This body met at Vincennes, February 1, 1805, and selected names for the organization of a legislative council, or senate, as provided in the ordinance of 1787. The counties then represented were Knox, Clark and Dearborn, in what is now Indiana; St. Clair, in Illinois; and Wayne, in Michigan. This was the last official connection of Michigan with the Indiana territory. By an act of congress, approved January 11, 1805, it was provided that from and after June 30, 1805, that part of the Indiana territory lying north of an east and west line drawn through "the southerly bend or extreme of Lake Michigan, until it shall intersect Lake Erie, and east of a line drawn from the said southerly bend" through the middle of Lake Michigan to its northern extremity, and hence north to the northern boundary of the United States, should be erected into a separate territory, to be known as Michigan. It will be noticed that this left the greater part of the present upper peninsula of Michigan in the Indiana territory.

The legislative council having been selected, the first general assembly of Indiana, embracing then the greater part of the old northwest territory, except Ohio and Michigan, assembled at Vincennes, July 29, 1805. The council, or senate, consisted of five members; and the house of representatives, of seven members. Michigan having become a territory, Wayne county was not represented. The counties having representation in the assembly were Knox, Clark and Dearborn, in what is now Indiana, and St. Clair and Randolph in Illinois. The business of this first general assembly was chiefly routine. Benjamin Parke was elected the first delegate of the territory in congress. The second general assembly began its

session at Vincennes, August 16, 1807. The laws passed at those two sessions, together with all other laws in force in the territory, were collected and published in one volume, called the code of 1807. This was the first Indiana code of laws.

After the signing of the treaty of Greenville between General Anthony Wayne and Little Turtle and the other chiefs, August 3, 1795, it was believed that permanent peace had been established between the whites and Indians. But the emigration to the rich lands of the northwest grew to such proportions that the Indians were pressed farther and farther into the interior. Numerous treaties, as we have seen, were made, from time to time, throwing open to white settlement the several reservations of territory made at Greenville to secure to the Indians their hunting grounds. Often, too, where two or more tribes owned certain lands in common, as they often did, the whites secured by treaty the title of one tribe and then failed to respect the claim of the others to the same lands. The French had respected this community ownership of lands, and never denied the title of the Indians, even to the territory occupied by themselves. Moreover, as to their own holdings, the French accepted the community idea, which was universal. Several hundred acres were set aside at Vincennes, which the inhabitants of the post used in common for pasture and other uses. They "fenced in" their stock as is now the law in Indiana; and the crops planted outside this community property by each householder were without enclosure. The community idea, however, was antagonistic to the ideas of the emigrants from the east. Each settler wanted his own lands for himself exclusively, and was particularly unwilling that any Indian should have any part or parcel in his holding. But, besides securing additional Indian lands by new treaties, many white emigrants, without any such authority, pushed in upon the lands yet reserved to the Indians by the treaty of Greenville and other treaties. This



land greed, as the Indians called it, was exasperating to the natives, who loved their old hunting grounds; and the feeling of resentment against the encroachment of the whites became more acute from year to year. Afterwards, when white men fell in battle with the Indians, it was not uncommon for the latter to stuff earth into the mouth, nose and ears of the fallen pale face, as if in mockery of this greed for land.

In a message to the legislature of Indiana, in 1806, Governor Harrison referred to the growing dissatisfaction of the Indians, in this and other respects. The Indians, he said, "will never have recourse to arms—I speak of those in our immediate neighborhood—unless driven to it by a series of injustice and oppression. Of this they already begin to complain; and I am sorry to say that their complaints are far from being groundless. It is true that the general government has passed laws for fulfilling, not only the stipulations contained in our treaty, but also those sublimer duties which a just sense of our prosperity and their wretchedness seem to impose. The laws of the territory provide, also, the same punishment for offenses committed against Indians as against white men. Experience, however, shows that there is a wide difference in the execution of those laws. The Indian always suffers, and the white men never."

In the state to which the minds of the Indians were wrought up, by both their real and their fancied wrongs, they needed but a leader to break out into hostilities against their oppressors. The leader was forthcoming, a greater perhaps than either Pontiac or Little Turtle. In 1805, Tecumseh, a Shawnee chief, and his brother Law-le-was-i-kaw—the loud voice—resided in a village on the White river in what is now Delaware county. Law-le-was-i-kaw took upon himself the character of a prophet, and is usually known under that title. He began to preach to the Indians, calling upon them to reject witchcraft, the use of intoxicating liquors, intermarriage with the whites and the practice of selling their

lands to the United States. He acquired great influence among the tribes, not only the tribes in Indiana, but those of the whole west. Prophet's Town was established on the banks of the Wabash river, near the mouth of the Tippecanoe, as a center to which all the Indians were invited to gather. While the prophet was arousing the religious enthusiasm of the Indians Tecumseh was visiting all the tribes of the west and the south, forming a confederacy which might be strong enough to resist further encroachments on the part of the white settlers. The poison of British influence was again manifested; and when the war of 1812 broke out between England and the United States, the Indians were found in full and active sympathy with the British. Interviews took place from time to time between Governor Harrison and the Shawnee chiefs, but the estrangement continued to increase from year to year. In the early part of 1811 the people of the territory became thoroughly alarmed at the growing strength of the Indians at Prophet's Town; and Governor Harrison, under direction of the president and the secretary of war, began preparations for a military expedition against the prophet. Harrison's army consisting of about seven hundred effective men, of whom two hundred and fifty were regular troops, arrived near Prophet's Town November 6, 1811. On the morning of the seventh, before daylight, the Americans were fiercely attacked by the Indians, and many killed. Harrison quickly rallied his forces and charged upon the Indians, who were completely routed. Harrison's loss, in killed and mortally wounded, were sixty-two, with one hundred and twenty-six other wounded men. The enemy's forces are believed to have been greater, and their losses quite as severe; but there is a lack of definite information on these points. The battle of Tippecanoe is the most important that ever took place within the confines of Indiana. The spirit of the Indians was completely broken, and the confederacy which Tecumseh was building up was completely destroyed.

This great warrior was himself absent at the time, visiting the tribes of the south. It is said that he was angry with his brother for bringing on the engagement. Tecumseh was not then ready for his conflict with the whites, and his plans were therefore frustrated. He soon joined the British army with his Indians and was killed at the battle of the Thames, in Canada, not far from Detroit, October 5, 1813. He was undoubtedly the greatest warrior and statesman ever produced by the Indian race.

After the battle of Tippecanoe there was occasional minor trouble with the Indians; but with the death of Tecumseh their courage and ambition as a united people was gone forever. The remnants of the red race were by degrees removed to the far west; and their place was rapidly taken by the hardy pioneers who poured in from the eastern states and from Europe. The triumph for the second time, of American arms over those of Great Britain, soon after followed; and the future of the great northwest was assured.

Another interesting episode in early Indiana history ought to receive at least a passing mention. In 1805, 1806 and 1807, Aaron Burr, once vice-president of the United States, was engaged in different places along the Ohio valley in organizing a mysterious enterprise, now believed to have been intended for the founding of an independent southwestern republic, to embrace Mexican and American territory. Some are of the opinion that Burr's ambition looked to the uniting of all the states and territories of the Mississippi valley, with Mexico, into one great central state of which he should be chief. Amongst other places Burr visited Jeffersonville, Vincennes and Kaskaskia. He was arrested early in 1807, and his vast project, whatever may have been its nature, suddenly collapsed.

As the population of the Indiana territory increased the need of a division into two territories became greater. Congress yielded to the

The convention consisted of forty-three members, elected from thirteen counties, as follows: Wayne, 4; Franklin, 5; Dearborn, 3; Switzerland, 1; Jefferson, 3; Clark, 5; Harrison, 5; Washington, 5; Knox, 5; Gibson, 4; Warrick, 1; Perry, 1; and Posey, 1. It will be noticed that these counties were almost altogether on the Ohio and Wabash rivers. Indiana's first settlements were along the rivers on the southern borders; and the settlers were almost all from the states and territories south and southeast of the Ohio. The population of the thirteen counties sending delegates to the constitutional convention of 1816 was sixty-three thousand, eight hundred and ninety-seven. Two additional counties, Orange and Jackson, also in the extreme south, were organized in 1816, under authority of the territorial legislature; but not in time to send delegates to the constitutional convention.

The convention began its deliberations at Corydon, on June 10, 1816, and completed the framing of the constitution on June 29, 1816. Jonathan Jennings presided over the convention, and William Hendricks was chosen secretary. On the completion of their work, President Jennings, as required by the constitution issued to the sheriffs of the several counties writs of election, fixing the first Monday of August, 1816, for the election of a governor and other state officers. Jonathan Jennings was elected first governor, receiving, 5,211 votes, to 3,934 cast for Thomas Posey, then governor of the territory. William Hendricks was elected first representative of Indiana in the house of representatives of the United States.

The first general assembly, chosen at the same election, began its session at Corydon on Monday, November 4, 1816. Christopher Harrison, elected lieutenant governor, presided over the senate; and Isaac Blackford, the famous jurist, was elected speaker of the house of representatives. The governor and lieutenant governor were inaugurated November 7, 1816; John Paul having been previously chosen president pro tempore



of the senate. Thereupon the territorial government came to a close. By a joint resolution of congress, approved December 11, 1816, Indiana was formally admitted as a sovereign state of the Union. On November 8, 1816, the general assembly elected James Noble and Waller Taylor as the first senators to represent the state in the United States senate. The session closed on January 3, 1817.

The population of Indiana when admitted into the Union, in 1816, was less than seventy thousand; but such an impetus was given to emigration by the organization of the state government that the census of 1820 showed that the state then contained 147,178 inhabitants. The revenues of the state continued for many years to be derived from a tax upon lands, as had been the practice during the territorial government. This tax was not, as at present, a percentage of the valuation, but a fixed sum per hundred acres according to the quality of the land. For this purpose, all lands were deemed to be of first rate, second rate and third rate. In the beginning, first rate lands were assessed at one dollar per hundred acres; second rate, eighty-seven and a half cents; and third rate fifty to sixty-two and a half cents. In 1821, the assessment on first rate lands had increased to one dollar and fifty cents on each hundred acres, and on other lands accordingly. In 1831, the assessment on first rate lands fell to eighty cents a hundred; second rate, to sixty cents; and third rate, to forty cents. By an act approved February 7, 1835, the method of assessment was changed to our present ad valorem system; and the assessor was directed to assess land for taxation at its true value, or, as the act expressed it, "as he would appraise the same in the payment of a just debt due from a solvent debtor." County revenues were raised principally from poll taxes and license fees, until the adoption of the ad valorem system.

The boundaries of the state of Indiana, as fixed by the enabling act

of congress, approved April 19, 1816, and as agreed to by an ordinance passed by the constitutional convention, at Corydon, June 29, 1816, are as follows: On the east, "the meridian line which forms the western boundary of the state of Ohio"; on the south, "the river Ohio, from the mouth of the great Miami river to the mouth of the river Wabash"; on the west, "a line drawn along the middle of the Wabash, from its mouth to a point where a due north line drawn from the town of Vincennes would last touch the northwestern shore of the said river; and from thence, by a due north line, until the same shall intersect an east and west line drawn through a point ten miles north of the southern extreme of Lake Michigan"; and on the north, "the said east and west line, until the same shall intersect the first mentioned meridian line, which forms the western boundary of the state of Ohio." It was provided in the enabling act of congress that if the constitutional convention of Indiana should fail to ratify these boundaries, then the boundaries of the state should be as fixed in the ordinance of 1787.

It would seem that the boundaries as fixed by the enabling act of congress, and as agreed to by the constitutional convention of the state, were so definite that no dispute could arise concerning them; yet each of the boundaries, except that between Indiana and Illinois, has been the subject of contention. The western boundary is exactly that fixed in the ordinance of 1787; and also that fixed by the act of congress, approved February 3, 1809, setting off the territory of Illinois from that of Indiana; except that the ordinance of 1787 fixes simply the "Wabash river," from its mouth to Vincennes, as part of the boundary; and the act setting off Illinois territory defines that territory to be "all that part of the Indiana territory which lies west of the Wabash river," and the direct line north from Vincennes. The wording of the ordinance of 1787, "the Wabash river," would doubtless be interpreted to mean the middle line of that river;

and the line is so defined in the enabling act providing for the admission of Indiana as a state. In the act setting off the territory of Illinois, however, it might be contended that as Illinois "lies west of the Wabash river," the boundary must be the west margin of that river. No such contention has ever been made by the state of Indiana. Yet such a conclusion has been reached as to the southern boundary of the state. The enabling act provided, as we have seen, that the state should be bounded on the south "by the river Ohio"; and this would seem to mean the middle line of the river. The ordinance of 1787 also provided that "the middle state," that is, Indiana, should be bounded on the south "by the Ohio." The plain interpretation here also would seem to be that the middle line, or thread of the stream, should form the southern boundary of the state. But the words have not been so interpreted. In the act of cession by the legislature of Virginia, passed December 20, 1783, and in the deed of cession, made March 1, 1784, the territory ceded to the United States is described as "being to the northwest of the river Ohio." The territory on both sides of the Ohio, and the river itself, were at the time a part of Virginia; and the contention was early made by Kentucky, as succeeding to the rights of Virginia, that no part of the river was included in the northwest territory, and consequently that no part of it could pass by the deed of cession. The ordinance of 1787 itself was "for the government of the territory of the United States northwest of the river Ohio." The claim of Kentucky has been sustained by the courts; and the southern boundary of Indiana is the low water mark on the northwest bank of the Ohio river, as the same existed when the boundary was fixed. As the river has since receded to the south in some places, we have the anomaly that parts of the state of Kentucky are at present located on the Indiana side of the river.

The rights of Indiana, however, as to the use and navigation of the Ohio, and also as to civil and criminal jurisdiction on the river, have been

made secure. By section seven of an act concerning the erection of the district of Kentucky into an independent state, passed by the commonwealth of Virginia, December 18, 1789, it was provided, "that the use and navigation of the river Ohio, so far as the territory of the proposed state of [Kentucky], or the territory which shall remain within the limits of this commonwealth lies therein, shall be free and common to the citizens of the United States; and the respective jurisdictions of this commonwealth, and of the proposed state, on the river as aforesaid, shall be concurrent only with the states which may possess the opposite shores of the said river." The framers of the constitution of 1816 seemed satisfied simply to declare the boundaries of the state; but the framers of the constitution of 1851, while repeating this declaration, took pains to add, in accordance with the act of the commonwealth of Virginia, that "the state of Indiana shall possess jurisdiction and sovereignty co-extensive with the boundaries declared in the preceding section; and shall have concurrent jurisdiction, in civil and criminal cases, with the state of Kentucky, on the Ohio river, and with the state of Illinois, on the Wabash river, so far as said rivers form the common boundary between this state and said states respectively."

The enabling act defines the eastern boundary of Indiana to be "the meridian line which forms the western boundary of the state of Ohio." The ordinance of 1787 provided that "the eastern state," that is, Ohio, should be bounded on the west by "a direct line drawn due north from the mouth of the Great Miami" to the British possessions. In the enabling act of congress for the admission of Ohio, approved April 30, 1802, the same western boundary was fixed for that state. But in the act approved May 7, 1800, separating Indiana from the northwestern territory, the eastern boundary of Indiana, as we have already seen, was declared to be "the line beginning at the Ohio, opposite to the mouth of Kentucky river,



and running thence to Fort Recovery, and thence north, until it shall intersect the territorial line between the United States and Canada." Yet, in the same act, it was also provided, "That whenever that part of the territory of the United States which lies to the eastward of a line beginning at the mouth of the Great Miami river, running thence due north to the territorial line between the United States and Canada, shall be erected into an independent state, and admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the original states, thenceforth said line shall become and remain permanently the boundary line between such state and the Indiana territory; anything in this act contained to the contrary notwithstanding." As Ohio was admitted with the Great Miami meridian as her western boundary, it would seem that she could have no claim to this irregular line by way of Fort Recovery; and, indeed, such imaginary claim, as a practical question, has long since been relinquished. Indiana has never stood out for the three mile strip west of Fort Recovery, now a part of the state of Ohio; and Ohio has abandoned any fancied claim to the wedge-shaped territory south of Fort Recovery, now a part of the state of Indiana. The old Indian boundary line, described in the treaty of Greenville, and extending southwesterly from Fort Recovery to a point on the Ohio opposite the mouth of the Kentucky river, is, however, yet found on many Indiana maps, as a historic reminder of the contention once entertained between the two states.

But it was as to the northern boundary of the state that there was chief contention. The ordinance of 1787, after providing for the boundaries of the minimum number of three states into which the northwest territory should be divided, provided further that, if deemed expedient, congress should have authority "to form one or two states in that part of said territory which lies north of an east and west line drawn through the southerly bend or extreme of Lake Michigan." The enabling act,

however, provided that the northern boundary of Indiana should be "an east and west line drawn through a point ten miles north of the southern extreme of Lake Michigan." The state of Indiana, therefore, extends ten miles north of the line provided in the ordinance of 1787 as the boundary between Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, on the south, and Michigan and Wisconsin on the north. This east and west line through the southern bend of Lake Michigan is sometimes called the ordinance boundary line and sometimes the old Michigan or Indiana boundary line.

The people of Michigan contended earnestly for the ordinance boundary line, claiming that any other boundary would be illegal and unconstitutional, for the reason that the provisions of the ordinance of 1787 in this regard were irrevocable, as defining the boundaries of the five states to be created out of the northwest territory. It appears that when the ordinance of 1787 was passed the true latitude of the southern extremes of Lake Michigan and Lake Erie was not known. At any rate, the people of Ohio at that time seem to have been of the opinion that an east and west line through the southern bend of Lake Michigan would strike Lake Erie north of Maumee bay. As if to force such an interpretation of the ordinance, a line was actually surveyed from the southerly bend of Lake Michigan to the northerly cape of Maumee bay. The order for this survey was made by act of congress; and the intention of congress was to mark the old ordinance boundary. The survey was, however, made under direction of the Ohio surveyor general, and he had the survey made according to the views of the Ohio authorities. This line is called the Ohio line, and also the "Harris line," from the name of the surveyor. In the final settlement of the dispute, Ohio succeeded in making, or retaining, the Harris line as the northern boundary of that state. Michigan was reluctantly persuaded to receive in exchange for the territory taken from her the upper peninsula of that state; and a most

valuable exchange it has turned out to be. The Harris line was never accepted as the northern boundary of Indiana; neither did this state accept the ordinance boundary, but took an independent, or perhaps, we might say, an arbitrary, position, insisting upon a ten mile strip north of the ordinance line, and giving as a reason for such insistence that otherwise she would be cut off from the navigation of Lake Michigan and the other great lakes. The Harris, or Ohio, line would not satisfy Indiana any better than the ordinance line; for both would prevent her from having a harbor on the great lakes. Michigan did not at first make a very strong contention against Indiana's claim. There were then no settlements in northern Indiana or southwestern Michigan; whereas the territory in dispute between Ohio and Michigan included the town of Toledo and a rapidly growing district in the vicinity. The northern boundary of Indiana is an east and west line, but the northern boundary of Ohio, the Harris line, runs a little north of east, beginning on the east line of Indiana, at a point about four miles and a half south of the northern boundary of Indiana and running east by north to include the city of Toledo and Maumee bay. Neither did the ordinance line mark the boundary between Illinois and Wisconsin. Had it done so, Chicago would have been in Wisconsin, as it was at one time supposed to be. The northern boundary provided for in the ordinance of 1787, "an east and west line drawn through the southerly bend or extreme of Lake Michigan," has therefore been wholly obliterated.

The name of our state, "Indiana," does not appear in our history until the passage of the act of congress, approved May 7, 1800, providing that all the northwest territory, west of a line through Fort Recovery, should "constitute a separate territory, and be called Indiana Territory." The name thus given is very dear to the people of this state, not only from the beauty of the word itself, but even more from its association

with our history, as a territory and as a state, now for over a hundred years. Indiana territory included at first not only the territory now forming our state, but also a part of that of Ohio and Michigan, all of Illinois and Wisconsin, and even part of Minnesota. As the successive territories were set off, however, and the territories themselves were erected into states, the beloved name remained with us. Other names were found for our sister commonwealths: Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota; all indeed beautiful, with their melodious French and Indian suggestions, but none of them comparable to our own Indiana.

There has been comparatively little discussion as to the origin of the name. It would seem indeed that the origin should be evident. When the territorial government was set up in the year 1800, the country was almost wholly occupied by the Indians. So far as occupancy was concerned, it was the Indian land. In ancient and modern times, in Europe as well as America, the suffix *a*, when added to a word, has been understood to mean land, country or place. Greece was known as *Grecia*; Italy, as *Italia*; Germany, as *Germania*. So we have *Russia*, *Prussia*, *Austria*, *Australia*, *Pennsylvania*, *Virginia*, *Louisiana* and many others. *Indiana* means nothing therefore but Indian land or Indian country.

It appears, however, that our state was not the first to bear the pleasant sounding name. In an interesting paper read before the Wayne County Historical Society, Mr. Cyrus W. Hodgin tells the story of an older Indiana.

At the close of the French and Indian war, in 1763, says Mr. Hodgin, a Philadelphia trading company was formed to engage in the fur trade on the Ohio. The company sent its agents into the Ohio valley with large quantities of goods to exchange for furs and other products which the Indians were accustomed to bring to the trading posts. In the fall of that year, certain bands of Indians who were tributary to the Iroquois



confederacy attacked the agents of the Philadelphia company at a point a little below the site of the present city of Wheeling, and seized upon the goods of the company, which they appropriated to their own use. In compensation for this loss, the Iroquois transferred to the company a tract of nearly five thousand square miles of land lying south of the Ohio and east of the Great Kanawha—a tract equal in extent to the state of Connecticut. To this princely domain the company gave the name of Indiana—Indian land. In 1776 the tract was conveyed to a new company, known as the Indiana Land Company. Virginia, however, refused to acknowledge the Indian title held by the company. A resort to the courts was equally unavailing. The eleventh amendment to the constitution of the United States, denying to citizens of one state the right to bring any action or suit against another sovereign state of the Union, was declared adopted, by proclamation of the president, issued January 8, 1798; and so the long contested case was stricken from the docket of the supreme court of the United States. The Indiana Land Company having lost its claim, the company itself passed out of existence; and the name “Indiana” was but a memory, until, in 1800, it was bestowed upon this commonwealth, now the great central state of the Union. It is not at all probable that the naming of our state had any connection with the name of the eastern Indiana. Accidentally the name is the same; but in each case, undoubtedly, the name given had direct reference to the Indians who occupied the country.

The publishers, in acknowledging their indebtedness to the editor, Thomas J. Wolfe, whose knowledge of persons and of facts and incidents in the county's history for nearly seventy years, and whose unabating interest in every department of this undertaking insure to the public the faithfulness of the endeavor and the value of this work as a history of the county, take this opportunity, in the closing pages of the volume, to publish the following reminiscent and historical sketch of his long and interesting life.

On the 25th day of January, 1832, in the little town of Merom on the banks of the Wabash, Dr. Elliott announced to a small coterie of old ladies, in waiting, that a son had been born to Benjamin and Isabella (Shepherd) Wolfe. This bit of news in a town where everybody knew everybody's business created no surprise as it was not unexpected.

A little later a family convention was called, and grandmothers, uncles and aunts were there, and to distinguish this particular child from all those bearing the same patronymic they decided to call him Thomas Jefferson. There was, no doubt, partiality shown in this; as the delegates were all Virginians, by blood or marriage, they desired to thrust additional honors on their state and its citizens, but it was all done without the consent or connivance of the parties in interest.

The boy took the prescribed course for boys of his age—hives, stomach-ache, whooping cough, measles and mumps. When about six years old he entered the high school (it was on top of the bluff just west



*Lucia Smith Wolfe.*

*Thos. J. Wape, a.m. L.L.P.*





of Uncle Jimmy Reed's store) and kept his little "footies" dangling between the floor and ceiling, his legs not yet having come up to the standard prescribed by Lincoln that they should be long enough to reach the floor. He was often reprimanded by the master for whispering and talking, and was punished (?) by being compelled to sit between two girls. This punishment failed as Tommy was often caught trying to talk to both girls at once, and another diagnosis was had and the treatment changed.

His mind developed so rapidly that his father became alarmed and apprenticed him to his grandmother on Shaker prairie to learn the science and art of farming. He did not know "gee" from "haw," and in order to know on which side to hitch Jack he hacked the swingletree, but while the boy was gone to dinner the hands turned the doubletree over, and that afternoon the starboard horse worked on the larboard side, but neither the boy nor Jack knew the difference, and the joke failed. After the crop was laid by the boy returned home to nurse a stonebruise and Jack went to grass.

He continued to play school and work at mumble-peg, marbles, tops and kites, and frequently to help girls dress their dolls and, occasionally, his mother wash dishes and paddle the clothes on the old wash bench. After about two years his father made known his decision to move to his farm on Shaker prairie. The boy remonstrated that it would be lonesome and that the wild animals and Indians might get him as he came home in the dark. But the father argued that outdoor life was good for boys—that walking was healthful when you had hold of plow handles with two big oxen to help you along, that the soil compared favorably with that along the Nile, and that corn grew as it did in Egypt, that his exchequer needed replenishing, that his finances had not increased as fast as his family, that we were on the eve of great prosperity, that corn had already advanced 25 per cent and was now worth 12½ cents f. o. b. flat-

boat at "Rankin cribs," and was likely to go higher—wheat worth  $37\frac{1}{2}$  cents, pork worth \$1.50 per cwt. and mast plenty,—and as he closed his argument he gave a significant glance toward the smokehouse (we had no woodsheds in those days). And Tommy saw the force of the argument and fearing a more striking one, said, "Pap, I agree with you, I have been thinking for some time we ought to go to the farm."

With the father to decide was to act. In a short time wagons were loaded and the overland trip of fifteen miles was made without a stop. Arriving at the destination, the future residence was found to consist of one room—were this fiction instead of a "so-tale" we should have said small room, but truth compels us to say the room was more than twenty feet long and about eighteen feet wide, boarded without and ceiled within. Still it was a problem to condense the contents of a three-room house into one room, and leave space for nine head of men, women and children, the answer to which could not be found in Smiley's or Pike's arithmetic. The mother, however, although deficient in figures, was a woman of resources, and by bedtime had made two rooms out of one by a partition of bed-clothing hung from the ceiling to the floor. The rear room contained three beds and two trundle beds, and the front room two temporary beds on the floor, which had to be removed to get room to cook at the fire-place and to spread the table.

When the crop was started, the father, mother and oldest boy went to Vincennes, and among other things bought a cook-stove. The dealer, Nick Smith, explained that these stoves economized space, split woman's work in two, and would save half the fuel. The father said he thought they were a little high (\$50.00), but he guessed they would take two, as they were scarce of room, his wife was overworked, and the boys did not like to cut wood. Smith laughed.

The stove was installed the next day, and being the first in the

neighborhood, was more than a seven days' wonder. It was a "step-stove," or double-decker, and much contention arose as to where to build the fire. The Dutch, accustomed to bake ovens, insisted on making it in the second story, and when hot, withdrawing the fire and putting in the dough. Directions were consulted, and one woman, to the surprise of all the rest, said she "hád saw a cook-stove with fire in it at Vincennes," and she took the side of the fire-box and settled the dispute.

The family continued to reside in the one-room house until after the crop was laid by, when improvements were made by moving a one-room log structure to within ten feet of the one occupied, and covering the house and open space with boards, which gave the family two rooms, an airy hall, and a bedroom in the loft reached by a ladder. For about five years this continued to be the family residence, and Thomas Jefferson had grown in stature and importance in proportion to the house, and still held his position as oldest boy of the family.

The father was much away from home, running for representative in the summer and fall, serving in the legislature in the winter, and flat-boating his crops in the spring. In the meantime he superintended the building of a large residence on the farm, and Tom, who had outgrown his pet name Tommy, hauled the brick for the chimneys and foundation, with two yoke of oxen, from Ochiltree's, a few miles north of Vincennes—the hewed timbers from the woods, and the sawed lumber from Turtle creek, near New Lebanon. The house was considered one of the finest in the county, and required about two years in building, as everything was done by hand.

The family, to which three more boys had been added since the last enumeration, moved into the new house in 1846, and continued the routine of farm life, farming in summer and attending two or three months of school in winter, until Tom was about twenty. His chief amusements

consisted of fishing and coon-hunting, and his outings were going to "mill and to meetin'," and selling sweet cider and gingerbread at the August elections.

About this time, his father, who had spent about two years in Miami University and had learned that "a little learning is a dangerous thing," divulged a long-cherished design of giving his children "a better bringing up than he or his had had." The father's intention was to send them to college in succession, beginning with Tom. The matter was discussed in the family during the winter, and Jake, younger by two years but about as large, insisted on going too, and maintained that he was equal to Tom in everything except age, which was no fault of his, that they had always been chums and trundle-bed fellows—and he prevailed. Then the mother put in a plea for Ann, a sister still two years younger—that the children had always been together, that no distinction should be made on account of sex, that Ann had been taught to look after the washing and sew on buttons and tie up sore fingers and toes, and that she ought to be permitted to go along to care for the boys—and on a final vote it was so decided.

There were busy times in the preparation. The decision had been made in favor of the State University, where each county was entitled to two students free of tuition, and on application, Tom and Jake had been appointed delegates by the county commissioners. The next question to be settled was how to get there, and this was decided in favor of the farm wagon, as no railroad had as yet been built to Bloomington. Tom was appointed chairman of the committee of ways and means, and directed to equip the wagon properly for the journey. Packing was a small matter, as one small trunk, covered with horse-hide with the hair on, and profusely studded with large-headed brass tacks, was sufficient for three wardrobes, and the only additional receptacle was the sister's band box.



These, and a box of tallow candles which the mother molded, and a few other accessories such as a mother only could think of, made the cargo.

On the first day of May, 1851, the start was made over the trail taken by the father over twenty-five years before, on his trip to Oxford for a similar purpose. The country was sparsely settled, water scarce, and it was difficult to get entertainment for the night. The time table has been made so that by an afternoon's travel and an early start the next day the Athens of Indians could be reached after only one night en route. But owing to bad roads and hills, such as the boys said they had not seen since they left Merom bluffs, night came on about seven miles west of Bloomington, and they were directed to seek lodging for the night at Dudley C. Smith's.

Arriving at the old farm-house by the roadside, they received a hearty welcome. The family, at home, consisted of father, mother, two sons and four daughters. The old gentleman was a native of Vermont and his wife of Kentucky. Being reared a strict Episcopalian, the father read a Psalm and prayed—prayed for the family and the "strangers within their gates." The second daughter, scarcely fifteen, wearing short dresses, very timid and bashful, was the one that most attracted Tom's attention, and who was to —, but we anticipate. Early the next morning the journey was resumed. At Bloomington the boys were introduced to several of the noted men in the public life of Indiana of that time, besides the president and members of the faculty. Board and furnished room were procured for the boys, on Main street (College avenue), at \$1.50 per week each (they to furnish their own candles), and Ann was placed in Mrs. McPherson's Academy.

This continued for about two years, the children being taken home each vacation to see mother and clear up some bottom land. After this the father leased the farm and moved the family to Bloomington as a

matter of economy and to give all of the children better opportunities. The daily grind of college life for four years, Tom, Tommy and Thos., by a process of evolution and a precedent of the university, was changed to Wolfe, Thos. J. To him the brightest oases in the desert of college life were the visits made to the old farm house by the roadside where resided the second daughter, but the time had not yet come for a declaration of serious intentions. The trips became more frequent but the distance was shorter, as she had been transferred to Mrs. McPherson's Academy. The girl had grown in stature, but paradoxical as it may seem, her skirts came nearer to the floor.

The course of study selected by Wolfe, Thos. J., was the regular classical course of universities in that day, and stimulated by visions of the future he received his degree of A. B. in 1856. After a short outing he entered the law department, and taking the prescribed course was graduated B. L. in 1858, and on the 3rd day of August, 1859, was married at the old farmhouse by the wayside, to Lucia R. Smith, second daughter of Dudley C. and Isabella (Porch) Smith. A short time after this they moved to the old home in Sullivan county, and owing to the unsettled condition of the country he engaged in farming and merchandising.

To this happy union three children were born, and each died in succession during infancy. On a small marble monument in the old "Shepherd graveyard" the name "Wolfe" is carved on the base and on the shaft are the names, "Effie, September 8, 1860—October 2, 1862. Bertie, November 17, 1864—August 7, 1866. Pearl, May 7, 1868—March 14, 1870,"—and except for this brief record nothing remains of their short lives but a "fond memory."

After the death of Pearl the parents moved to Sullivan and the father resumed the practice of law which he had temporarily left off. In the quiet of Sunday morning, May 26, 1907, the wife and mother, who had

been an inspiration to him and a partner in all joys and sorrows, after a brief illness of four days, folded her weary hands and "closed her eyes to slumber awhile." She had almost reached her three-score years and ten and her golden wedding, of married life, but "God called her in and shut the door."

Mr. Wolfe still keeps an office and attends to such business as comes to him. He is now nearly seventy-eight and retains use of his mental and physical faculties to an unusual degree—indulges an optimistic spirit and believes the world is growing better and that every man "reaps what he sows" and gets about what is coming to him. He attributes his present activity to outdoor life, much walking, moderate eating, regular habits, freedom from worry and the acceptance of the advice which Cromwell refused "Throw away ambition." His life, measured by the common standard—dollars and cents, would rate low on Wall street or in Dun; but by the standard of "quid pro quo" it might come up to the average.





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